

# *Annual Report*

## 2020



**SPREP**

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional  
Environment Programme





Cruise ship, Mamanuca islands, Fiji. Photo: © Stuart Chape

**A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.**

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is the lead regional organisation for the protection and sustainable development of Pacific island environments.

SPREP was established by its Member governments in 1992 to support cooperation and coordination on environmental matters in the region. The agreement establishing SPREP came into force in 1993, officially making the organisation an autonomous body.

With headquarters in Apia, Samoa, SPREP works closely with its 26 Member countries and territories – along with partners, donors and local communities – to deliver on environmental management and sustainable development in the region in four priority areas:

**BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT**

**WASTE MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL**

**CLIMATE CHANGE**

**ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND GOVERNANCE**

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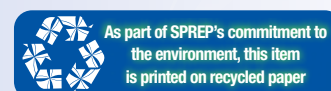
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**OUR VISION:** *A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.*



Photo: © Stuart Chape

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Ghavatu, Tanambogho and Ghaome Islands in Solomon Islands. Photo: © Stuart Chape



Dr Melchior Mataka

If 2020 has taught us anything, it is that we should be prepared for the unexpected. The pandemic COVID-19 struck us all hard and fast, with the global death toll close to three million as I write this, and the message for humanity is loud and clear.

We must care for each other. One way we can do so is by investing in protecting our environment. We must develop sustainably, and we must acknowledge the value of our environment in maintaining our life balance.

If we protect our environment, our environment will protect us.

The environmental challenges we face grow daily – all of which are brought about by our human behaviour. Our

consumption of single-use plastics has led to plastics now being ingested by seafood which we eat. We face a myriad of threats brought about by climate change, which in turn is caused by humans.

We must all make changes in our lifestyles for a better environment, now and into the future.

While we faced one of our darkest challenges as we navigated through 2020 and the pandemic, it was also a time in which the ability to adapt and persevere shone through.

Our geographical isolation that was once a hindrance proved to be our greatest asset during COVID-19. Many of our Pacific islands still make up the very

few across the planet that were yet to have their first COVID-19 case recorded by December 2020.

As many of our islands still face telecommunication challenges, this did not stop us as we adapted our work to suit the COVID-19 restrictions.

As I reflect on 2020 and our work to protect our environment in collaboration with our Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, and partners, there is much that we have accomplished. We must innovate and keep moving forward on the implementation of our work programmes.

Our Secretariat moved quickly to protect and value its people. Staff members were permitted



to return home to work remotely and be with family during this time of uncertainty. As news coverage reported the destruction wreaked by COVID-19, the Secretariat wanted to ensure staff were safe and well, both physically and mentally.

Safe-hygiene procedures were implemented during the State of Emergency in Samoa and the remote offices, and new work systems were applied to ensure staff continued to work with Members.

Once SPREP came through this period of adjustment, the team at SPREP adapted work plans to suit COVID-19 restrictions with the biggest change being the move from travel for face-to-face activities, to remote activities coordinated virtually. A method of work we still apply as I write this.

A goal of the Secretariat was to ensure that its people knew they were valued. SPREP Members were supported and helped in this time of COVID-19, the best way possible under these circumstances.

As Members, our opinions and voices were sought by our Secretariat as to what our needs were to ensure we could continue working virtually with SPREP. Online training and meetings were facilitated, and support and guidance were provided through virtual means.

Our Secretariat adapted to the circumstances and continued working for our Pacific environment with support from our partners and stakeholders.

For us in Solomon Islands, as with many other Pacific islands, the pandemic also hit



Avatiu Harbour, Rarotonga, Cook Islands. Photo: D.McFadzien

us hard. We have managed it effectively so far with a clear government policy to keep the country safe from COVID-19, support economic recovery and position ourselves to emerge from the pandemic stronger and united. However, with the on-going pandemic, it did not mean that other environmental and development risks went away – we must cope with environmental degradation and the onslaught of climate change.

It strikes home with us all as to just how important it is that we continue building our resilience through a stronger environment and higher climate change ambitions to keep global

temperatures below a 1.5-degree rise, compared to pre-industrial levels.

While we have learnt how to work in this new world of COVID-19, we must persevere and care for our environment. This means we must enhance structures; ensure appropriate policies and programmes are in place, fill gaps and innovate to build our Pacific resilience.

I thank our partners for working with our Secretariat, to empower and support the implementation of programmes. Thank you to my fellow SPREP Members for your support and commitment, we have journeyed through

many challenges in 2020 and survived. Now we must continue, informed by our experiences, embracing change and adaptation, and capitalising on our unity and commitment to the mandates of SPREP.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the staff of SPREP, and the Director General Mr Kosi Latu who embarks on his final year at the helm in 2021. Thank you for your leadership and the support we have received from you and your team.

May 2021 be a better year for us all – in solidarity, and in resilience.

### **Dr Melchior Matakī**

Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Environment, Climate Change,  
Disaster Management and Meteorology  
Government of Solomon Islands



# Message from the Director General



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Rarotonga, Cook Islands. Photo: © D.McFadzien



Mr Kosi Latu

2020 without a doubt has been the most challenging year for SPREP with the global pandemic. Despite the impacts of COVID-19 we continued to build resilience, as we adapted to this new environment and way of working. The power of partnerships, and collaboration, using in-country expertise and partner organisations to deliver where we could not, complemented by our IT essential work tools, ensured we remained connected, engaged and responsive.

Our SPREP Webinar Series: Transitioning To A Post-Pandemic Pacific held from June to July is an example of how we adapted to change through staff learning new skills to enable a virtual

space for talanoa, exchanging expertise and experience between our Members, partners, community and friends. This initiative ensured we remained connected and engaged across all of our strategic priorities.

We convened our first virtual governance meeting for the 2<sup>nd</sup> SPREP Executive Board Meeting in September chaired by Solomon Islands. Our Executive Board approved the new SPREP People Strategy which serves as the cornerstone of how we place people at the centre of how we do business, to better deliver for our Pacific environment and communities.

The Executive Board also endorsed the Independent

Corporate Review of SPREP with the Mid-Term Review of the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017–2026 to be conducted in 2021; new Implementation Plan 2021–2025 for the remaining period of the Cleaner Pacific 2025; Regional Guidelines on Regional Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment reports for Pacific Island Countries and Territories; Partnership Engagement and Resource Mobilisation Strategy; Country and Territory Strategic Partnership Frameworks, and SPREP's engagement and implementation of the Kiwa Initiative.

In November we convened our largest virtual gathering of 2,000 people for the 10<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and



Protected Areas. This was hosted by the Government of New Caledonia with the Pacific Island Roundtable Chair of IUCN, and SPREP as the lead coordinating agency. Key milestones that helped amplify our collective voice to conserve and protect our Pacific environment included the endorsement of the Vemööre Declaration during the High-Level Segment; presentation to Members of the draft Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, 2021–2025; and launch of the State of Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report.

The State of Environment and Conservation Report in the Pacific Islands is a comprehensive analysis of our region and demonstrates the importance of the State of Environment (SOE) reports which can be used to strengthen the environmental sustainability of national development plans and policy decisions. In 2020 five SOE reports for the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Niue, Papua New Guinea and Tonga were approved at the national level. This is a record number of SOE reports completed and approved in one year. These serve as a baseline for future monitoring and reporting that can help with national, regional and international reporting obligations including multilateral environmental agreements.

In October, the Third Pacific Ocean Pacific Climate Change Conference (POPCCC) was hosted virtually by the Government of Samoa through a partnership with the National University of Samoa,

Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington and SPREP. The conference theme of 'Blue Pacific, Climate Action for Climate Resilience' saw more than 400 registered participants, 20 moderators and 99 presenters. The keynote speakers included the Hon. James Marape, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea; Dr Vladimir Ryabinin, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and Assistant Director General of UNESCO; Mr Adrian Orr, Governor of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand; and Ms Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner, Poet and Climate Envoy, Republic of Marshall Islands. Climate action and making impacts in our communities requires diverse stakeholders coming together, which the POPCCC was able to achieve and shall continue.

The target of using 100 per cent renewable energy remains a key priority for our Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC). In December the Electricity Generation License application to the Office of the Regulator was officially approved, which enables the PCCC to use its installed solar panels connected to the national grid. This is a significant achievement and the first for Samoa under the new regulations for non-commercial energy producers. Our continued energy target is for 100 kw from our current level of 20 kw, which will ensure the PCCC is a model for the Pacific region.

With the impact of COVID-19, the critical role of effective healthcare waste management is vital. Through our Waste Management Pollution Control Programme (WMPC) we shared information on the treatment



Stone fish traps, Naviti Island, Fiji. Photo: © Stuart Chape

of waste management, including medical, household and other hazardous waste, as an urgent and essential public service in order to minimise impacts upon health and the environment. The EU-funded PacWastePlus produced a medical waste alert on how to manage COVID-19 healthcare waste. Through the PacWastePlus and in its role as the Pacific Regional Centre for the Joint Implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions, WMPC have also ensured the technical and expert resources are accessible and easily understood.

In these difficult times of COVID-19 where our communities are being impacted by the far-reaching consequences of this pandemic, we must collectively ensure that as part of the recovery efforts, endeavours to conserve and protect our environment remain a priority for present and future generations.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank our Members, partners and staff for your support as we navigate through this pandemic and continue to work together for a resilient Pacific environment.

**Kosi Latu**  
Director General, SPREP



# Demonstrating Organisational Values

## COVID-19 and SPREP

2020 has been a most challenging year for SPREP and illustrated the interconnectedness of nature, people, health and wellbeing in our Pacific region. COVID-19 has served as an unwelcome reminder of the continued vulnerabilities in the way we live, work and interact with each other, and that the geography and economies of the Pacific islands are not immune to its devastating impacts. Underpinned by the SPREP Organisational Values, we adjusted how we worked in 2020 to suit COVID-19 circumstances.



Tree ferns in cave, New Caledonia. Photo: © Stuart Chape.

## Environmental Leadership

**SPREP will promote environmentally sustainable practices. We will develop expertise, share knowledge, deliver practical environmental outcomes and build the capacities of vulnerable Pacific islands to manage their environment, reduce risks and adapt to adverse global changes.**

In this new mode of working, 2020 precipitated change in how the Secretariat engaged with Members. Ongoing communication for coordination was more critical, particularly with the challenges for Members of balancing national priorities with virtual meetings, training and reporting in different time zones around the clock.

Working together with partners, SPREP applied new and innovative ways to ensure the

outcomes of the events were met despite the unexpected changes brought about by COVID-19. Establishing virtual platforms enabled us to host over 1,000 online participants, and SPREP and partners were able to pioneer this large-scale virtual approach for the Pacific islands region.

The Secretariat enhanced its capacity on campus to better deliver and engage with Members, by upgrading IT infrastructure and using virtual

platforms to ensure effective and meaningful engagement while recognising existing challenges with bandwidth and cost of data in some Pacific island countries and territories.

Using a virtual mode our delivery of policy expertise, training and project implementation continued. This has been a key priority – to ensure the Secretariat remained connected and responsive to the needs of Members, particularly in these difficult times.

SPREP's swift move to working virtually included a webinar series coordinated in partnership with Members.

The “Transition to a post-pandemic Pacific” series aimed to drive awareness and increase consideration of our environment when rebuilding from the pandemic. SPREP undertook this webinar series successfully, applying new and innovative forms of outreach which soon became the norm in 2020.

There were two flagship events for SPREP in 2020 – the 10th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, as well as the 2020 Pacific Ocean, Pacific Climate Change Conference. Originally planned to be face-to-face events, these were held on virtual platforms.

## Service Delivery

SPREP will serve the priority environmental needs of individual Members and develop common regional goals and approaches. We will strive for high quality outcomes. We will work as a team and promote partnerships with related organisations and be flexible to cope with change.

Excellent teamwork across the SPREP Secretariat, Members and partners was showcased during 2020. Partnerships were strengthened with national stakeholders and regional partners to implement the work on the ground, despite

health and travel restrictions throughout the Pacific.

While some elements of SPREP projects and work had to be readjusted for virtual and remote delivery, this was not possible for all in-country project activities and required some components

of in-country project delivery to be postponed for the remainder of 2020.

While the Island and Ocean Ecosystems Programme retained a relatively high percentage of directly implementable activities, most of the work across all programmes was achieved through virtual and other means, including through local consultants. The presence of in-country project staff and

contractors in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu also contributed to maintaining in-country delivery and momentum – highlighting the value of outposted offices and staff. Throughout 2020 the Secretariat monitored the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the work programme and budget and adjusted its response to programme delivery accordingly.

## Valuing our People

SPREP will attract and retain quality staff by basing recruitment on merit, providing opportunities for development, consulting staff on decisions that affect them and providing a safe and healthy workplace. We will treat all staff with respect and ensure they have the necessary resources. We will value and draw on the diversity of our staff as well as the rich diversity of our Member countries and territories.

When impacted by the restrictions imposed by COVID-19, SPREP faced new challenges. State of Emergency directives were followed in countries where SPREP staff were based. In Samoa this meant staff at SPREP headquarters were

home-based from end-March to end-May. In Fiji, Republic of Marshall Islands and Vanuatu, where project and regional office staff are located, staff followed national directives. In June Apia-based staff were able to return to working in the office.

Some staff were also permitted to return to their home countries prior to border closures, but most have now been able to return to Apia while others remain working remotely. In all of these, SPREP ensured that staff were able to stay connected virtually with headquarters while working remotely from their home country and elsewhere.

Despite these constraints, one of the key highlights for SPREP in 2020 was the collective work undertaken to inform the People Strategy 2021–2025 for our staff so they can best serve

our Members and the SPREP mandate on the protection and conservation of the Pacific environment for present and future generations.

The Secretariat is aware that the People Strategy must align with its purpose of 'sharing our expertise, knowledge and passion to make a positive change, for the benefit of our Pacific communities'. The People Strategy was endorsed by the 2nd SPREP Executive Board Meeting and implementation continues in 2021.

## Integrity

SPREP will be a wise steward of the resources entrusted to it, remain impartial and apolitical, and act fairly and equitably. We will maintain high standards of ethical conduct.

SPREP recognised the importance of closely monitoring its financial sustainability with monthly monitoring and reporting. This was a collective effort on the part of management with Members through the

Friends of the Chair on Sustainable Financing and the Audit Committee. This ensured that under such difficult circumstances the Secretariat remained fiscally transparent and accountable to its Members.

Due to the diligence of SPREP with the guidance of Members the audited accounts show SPREP achieved a USD 389,377 net surplus for 2020 compared with the USD 81,977 deficit in 2019, and USD 447,139 total reserves for 2020 compared with USD 57,763 in 2019. More is available in our Financial section of the SPREP Annual Report.

Noting the context of COVID-19 and reduced project implementation throughout the Pacific islands this has been a key achievement made possible with the support of Members, partners and the Secretariat staff. The issue of sustainable financing remains a critical issue for the Secretariat and it will be an ongoing priority in 2021.





10th Pacific Islands Conference

## NATURE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTED AREAS

*Nature Conservation Action for a Resilient Pacific*



10<sup>e</sup> conférence du Pacifique insulaire

## CONSERVATION DE LA NATURE ET AIRES PROTÉGÉES

*Agir pour la nature et la résilience du Pacifique*

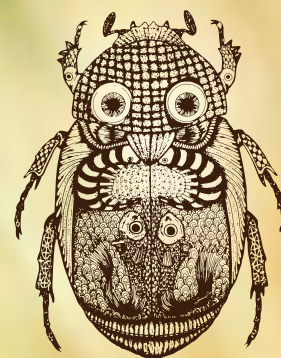
10th Pacific Islands Conference

## NATURE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTED AREAS

*Nature Conservation Action for a Resilient Pacific*

Virtual Event

24–27 NOVEMBER 2020



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This free virtual event was held from 24–27 November 2020 as a partnership between the Government of New Caledonia, the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation and SPREP.

Originally planned as a face-to-face event in April 2020 at the Tjibaou Cultural Centre in New Caledonia, the format changed to a virtual event in response to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. The bilingual event included a High-Level Segment, which endorsed the Vemööre Declaration: Commitments to Nature Conservation Action in the Pacific Islands Region 2021–2025.

**6,191 network activities**

**3800+ unique live views**

**1,097 logged in users**

**3 conference hubs**

**1,800+ registrations**

**50+ countries represented**

### Innovation bringing people together for Pacific nature conservation

A virtual, interactive bilingual platform allowed participants to engage with one another regardless of their physical location.

- Using the virtual platform was a new mode of work for many and 18 one-hour training sessions were organised for speakers,
- hosts of the conference and exhibition holders, as well as tutorial videos made available for attendees.
- Three plenary sessions and 22 parallel sessions allowed interactivity through chat boxes, Q&A, as well as polls. All sessions were recorded and are available on demand.
- There were 15 virtual exhibition booths and 12 virtual side-events for sponsors allowing attendees to directly interact with sponsors, connect with leading organisations and maintain contact after the event. The virtual networking lounge and virtual meeting rooms, as well as a speaker's page, were a feature of the platform.
- Local hubs supporting the virtual conference were hosted in Port Moresby, at the University of Papua New Guinea with support from the Government of New Caledonia; IUCN-Oceania Regional Office in Suva, Fiji, and the Pacific Community in Noumea, New Caledonia.



The branding for the conference stemmed from artwork created by Nicolas Molé, an artist from New Caledonia. His inspiration is taken from Kanak culture, the earth, the past and present and the beetle which is one of the symbols he often uses as a representation of his ancestors.



Photo: E.Nakautoga

## The Vemööre Declaration

The Government of New Caledonia hosted the High-Level Segment which included 13 Pacific island countries, territories and partner countries and the 12 Heads of organisations of the Pacific Islands Round Table for Nature Conservation who endorsed the Vemööre Declaration: Commitments to nature conservation action in the Pacific Islands region, 2021–2025.

By endorsing the Vemööre Declaration, Pacific island leaders and other high-level representatives declared that the global biodiversity crisis is urgent, and that transformative action must not be delayed, as the crisis is an existential threat to the Pacific Ocean, the Pacific islands, and to Pacific peoples.

The declaration notes with grave concern that none of

the global 2011–2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets have been fully met, and the Blue Pacific calls on all countries to adopt a strong deal for nature and people, to reverse or halt the loss of natural ecosystems and put nature on a path to recovery by 2030.

The Vemööre Declaration covers 21 action tracks under the themes of Our Ocean, Our Islands, Our Connection with Nature, and seeks urgent action by all stakeholders.

The High-Level Segment was attended by the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga and Vanuatu, as well as Wallis and Futuna, Australia, France and New Zealand.



Araucaria forest and limestone coast, New Caledonia. Photo: © Stuart Chape

Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT) members present were BirdLife International, cChange Pacific, Conservation International, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, International Union for Conservation of Nature

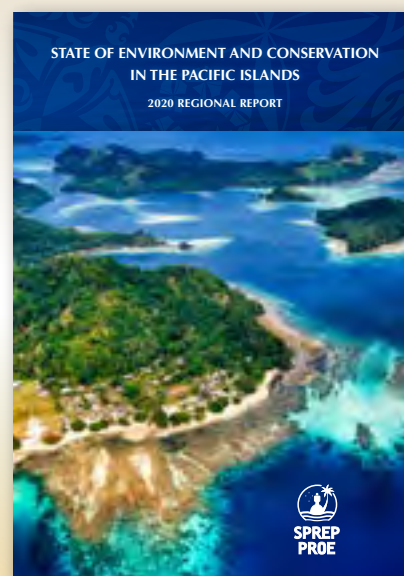
(IUCN) Oceania Regional Office, The Nature Conservancy, SPC, Protected Area Learning Research Collaborative (PALRC), SPREP, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) – New Caledonia, and World Wide Fund for Nature-Pacific.

## State of Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report

Launched at the 10<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, the State of Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report (SOEC) was prepared in the lead up to the conference. It defines progress towards regional and global conservation priorities and was presented to the attendees of the conference and the High-Level Segment.

The report presents the Pacific priorities for environmental management, data gaps and opportunities, and the ways in which Pacific environments and resources are changing. This regional view supports the development of sound policies, practices, and investments affecting Pacific island and ocean ecosystems as well as those who depend on them.

The seven themes of the report are Environmental Governance, Land, Coastal and Marine, Conservation and Protection, Biodiversity, Atmosphere and Climate, and Built Environment.







Photos: E.Nakautoga

Photo: SPREP

## A new Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021–2025

Presented at the Conference, the framework is the principal regional strategy document for nature conservation in the Pacific. It provides broad strategic guidance for nature conservation planning, prioritisation and implementation in our region.

The report reflects the urgent need for transformative action in response to multiple threats, both established and emerging, that are faced by nature and people in the Pacific.

Setting the agenda and priorities for conservation beyond 2020, the Framework was drafted, reviewed and discussed before and during the conference by attendees.

Six strategic objectives were identified within the Framework, these are accompanied by 21 Action Tracks based on evidence in the SOEC and connecting with the conference theme. A set of eight Principles provides a code of conduct for implementation.

The Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021–2025 will be endorsed in 2021 at the 30<sup>th</sup> SPREP Meeting.



## Engaging Pacific youth for nature conservation

The voices of Pacific youth were heard during the Conference through a Youth Biodiversity Gallery, youth statements to the Declaration of the High-Level Segment, a Pacific Youth Booth at the Virtual Exhibition and a session on Youth Engagement in Nature Conservation.

The Youth Biodiversity Gallery received 29 submissions from young people expressing their views on biodiversity

issues through art and creative communication, reflecting on their relationship with a changing world and becoming advocates for environmental action.

‘Pacific Youth Engagement in Biodiversity and Conservation Decision Making Processes’

“It is incredibly important that our youth be engaged in nature conservation and biodiversity because this is about our future, and the way we must address this must be together.”

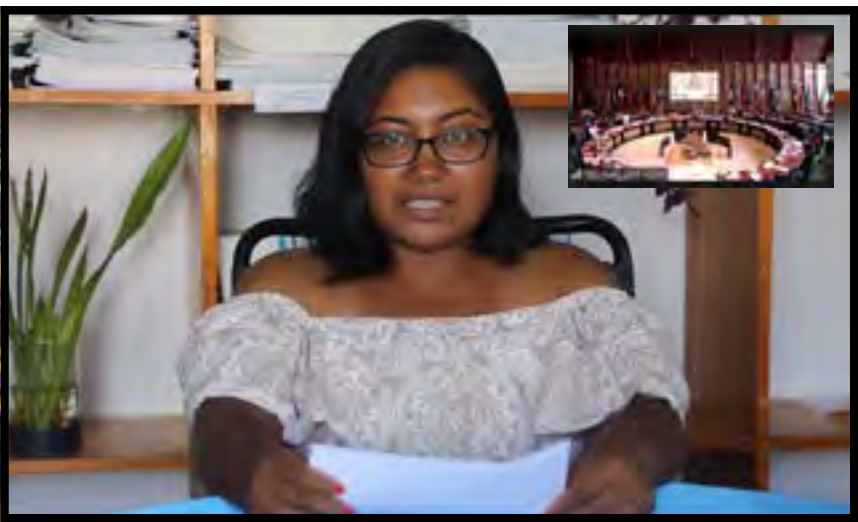
Ms Genevieve Jiva, Coordinator of the Pacific Islands Climate Action Network.

was the title of the session focused on youth. This session recognised that participation of Pacific youth in biodiversity and conservation issues remains at low levels and called for support in strengthening Pacific youth participation in this space.



Samoa. Photo: D.McFadzien

Photos: E.Nakautoga





## Telling our Pacific biodiversity stories

Showcasing knowledge and solutions related to nature conservation in the Pacific islands was achieved by creating virtual galleries on the website and through the news feed on the conference platform.

An open call was made for submissions for lightning stories and Striking Facts which reflected unique experiences and

success stories in nature conservation.

Lightning stories, less than two minutes in length, aimed to inspire our nature conservation community. In all 75 lightning stories were uploaded to the conference website.

Thirty-five Striking Facts were uploaded to the conference website – these were a call to bring facts to those who use data for decision making.

The Pua Neinei *Fitchia speciosa* in the Cook Islands. Photo: D.McFadzien



## Working with New Caledonia

The host country New Caledonia organised a local day on the theme 'Conservation in Action'. This event was integrated into the Salon International du Livre Océanien (SILO). During this special day, approximately 2,000 attendees participated in activities including animation viewing,

exhibitions, demonstrations, tree planting, film debates and roundtable discussions.

Building visibility for the 10<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, the New Caledonia Postal and Telecommunication Service launched a postage stamp

showcasing the Conference design by New Caledonian artist Nicolas Molé.

Ten lightning stories were filmed with TV Channel CALEDONIA and SILO. 'Did you know' pop-ups were integrated with the conference website to inform visitors about nature conservation in New Caledonia.



President of New Caledonia, H.E. Thierry Santa presents a statement at the 10<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas.







For Pacific Island Members, the economic, social, and environmental costs of climate change and disasters are high and forecast to increase. As coordinator for climate change action in the region, SPREP continues to work with Members to lead the region's response to climate impacts. In supporting Members, SPREP promotes integration of climate change adaptation and disaster risk management through capacity building and within an ecosystem-based approach.

## Supporting our Members after Tropical Cyclone Harold

The National Meteorological Services of Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu received support to repair and replace damaged observation and communication equipment following widespread destruction caused by the Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Harold.

Funded by the Government of Ireland, this support helped ensure that equipment and infrastructure was ready for the next cyclone season.

The work included the rebuilding of weather stations in Sanma, Malampa and Penama provinces in Vanuatu which provide weather data to inform community alerts and early warning for nearby airport operations.

Assistance was also provided to host community consultations and impact-

based workshops in Tonga and Vanuatu. The workshops helped to map the impacts and lessons learnt from Early Warning Systems to rebuild in a more resilient manner.

After Tropical Cyclone Harold. In Luganville, Santo island, Vanuatu. Photo: M.Bolu





## Working to improve Storm Surge Warnings after Tropical Cyclone Harold

The Tonga Meteorological Service held consultations with communities across coastal areas of Tongatapu to improve their Storm Surge Warnings. This was funded by the Government of Ireland and the WMO-SPREP Pacific Met Desk Partnership fund. These saw close to 30 participants of various ages sharing their experiences on how to improve the warnings from the Tonga Meteorological Service.

When Tropical Cyclone Harold passed near Tongatapu and 'Eua in April 2020, it caused storm surges and large waves of up to 14 meters high, inundating up to 300 meters inland in some coastal areas and destroying millions of dollars worth of property and infrastructure. The Tonga Met Services aimed to improve community preparations for these weather events.

Also formed from the community consultations were awareness products developed in partnership with the Tonga Broadcasting Commission, to help strengthen preparedness for storm surges or large waves created by tropical cyclones.

The consultation workshop with community members was held in September 2020.



Tonga during calmer times. Photo: D.McFadzien

## Enhancing water security in FSM

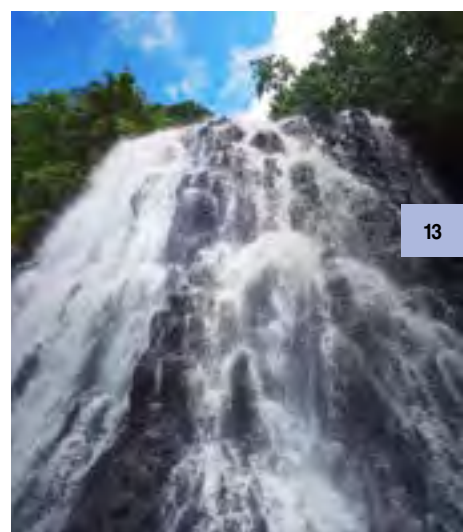
The repairing of water tanks and wells in the outer islands of the Yap, Chuuk and Pohnpei states in the Federated States of Micronesia took place through the FSM Adaptation Fund Project – “Enhancing the climate change resilience of vulnerable island communities in Federated States of Micronesia”. There were 30 privately owned water tanks repaired on the island of Kapingamarangi in Pohnpei, and foundations constructed for new water tanks in Chuuk.

The project also partnered with the UNICEF Office in Pohnpei to facilitate Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) training in Yap, Chuuk and Pohnpei. It also supported the operation and maintenance of water harvesting and storage systems being repaired and installed under the project.

The five-year project is funded by the Adaptation Fund for which SPREP is the Implementing Agency for the FSM Adaptation Project.

The FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management is the Executive Entity. A Project Management Unit manages and implements the project on behalf of the FSM government for which each of the four states have Operations and Finance Officers. Community Coordinators support implementation of project activities on the ground.

Running waterfall in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia. Photo: D.McFadzien



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## FSM, Palau and Tonga to trial an adaptation impact analysis methodology

The Global Climate Change Alliance Plus Scaling-up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA) project is delivered in partnership by SPREP, the Pacific Community and the University of the South Pacific to enhance climate change adaptation and resilience in the Pacific region, funded by the European Union.

Output One of the GCCA+ SUPA Project is led by SPREP and will develop an impact analysis methodology that can be tested on past adaptation

interventions in Pacific Small Island States.

An online outreach and survey conducted of approximately 60 practitioners resulted in the interest for an impact analysis methodology.

A suite of smart survey tools was developed and uploaded on an open-source online KoBo Toolbox application to collect data from sites with the cooperation of national focal points. Orientation sessions for the use of a data collection

tool for assessing the impact of adaptation interventions were first held in FSM and Palau by SPREP.

These were the start of ongoing refresher and awareness sessions on the KoBo Toolbox that are being coordinated through the GCCA+ SUPA Project funded by the European Union.



Further sessions are planned for 2021 on a suite of survey tools in order to finalise an impact analysis methodology and these will be trialed in FSM, Palau and Tonga.



## Building Pacific capacity through the Pacific Climate Change Centre

Over 150 people from 12 Pacific Island SPREP Members underwent remote training in 2020 through the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC).

Three training activities were held as part of the project for Capacity Building on Climate Resilience in the Pacific (CBCRP-PCCC) made possible by support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Government of Samoa.

The 'Climate Science –

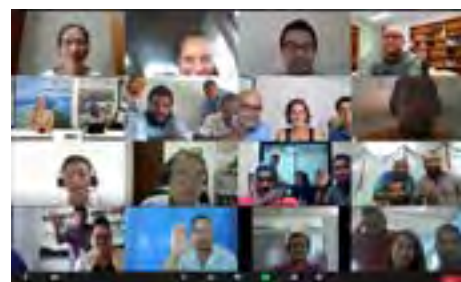
Observed Climate Change and future Climate Projections' training, coordinated in partnership with the University of Newcastle Australia saw over 50 participants take part.

Parts one and two of the 'Understanding Access to Climate Finance' training, held in partnership with UN Women, saw 45 people engage each time.

The Second Meeting of the Joint Coordination Committee was held in 2020 to review

progress of the training initiatives and to discuss the revised training schedule in 2021–2022 and the sustainability of the CBCRP-PCCC project outcomes beyond the project. The first PCCC Advisory Board meeting was held in December 2020.

By changing the training format from in-person to online to suit COVID-19 travel restrictions, the CBCRP-PCCC has strengthened its training delivery capacity



Virtual training through the Pacific Climate Change Centre.

and doubled the number of training participants compared to the previous in-person training in 2019.

## New paper on enhancing climate resilience using traditional knowledge published

National Meteorological Services from across the Pacific are working with traditional knowledge experts to build community resilience to extreme events.

Examples of how a participatory approach can be used to preserve and promote the use of traditional knowledge, and incorporate this knowledge into National Meteorological Services, were shared from Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

The paper titled 'Enhancing Climate Resilience in the Pacific: Assessment of a Participatory Approach to Improve Climate Communication' was published online as a chapter in the Palgrave Handbook of Climate Resilient Societies.

The paper was co-authored by Dr Lynda Chambers of the Australian Bureau of Meteorology; Mr Roan D Plotz of Victoria University in Melbourne, Australia;

Ms Siosinamele Lui and Mr Tile Tofaeono of SPREP; Mr David Hiriassia of the Solomon Islands Meteorological Service; Mr Ofa Fa'anunu and Mr Seluvaia Finaulahi of the Tonga Meteorological Service; Ms Rosslyn Pulehetoa Mitiepo of the Niue Meteorological Service; Ms Faapisa Aiono of the Samoa Meteorological Service; and Mr Albert Willy of the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department.



Gathering information to help form the paper on using traditional knowledge to enhance climate resilience.

## Going virtual for climate change resilience in Vanuatu

A five-day virtual event tailored for Vanuatu was held in November to enhance the resilience of Vanuatu's productive sectors helping Vanuatu to manage and adapt to climate variability and change through enhanced climate information services.

The event resulted in further finalising activities and illustrated where linkages to climate scientists can help to ensure well-rounded resilience activities.

Vanuatu is the first Pacific island to develop its

Framework for Climate Services which is helping to address the challenges to better climate information services. These challenges include the significant geographic isolation between, and within, over 80 islands and the over 80% of the population living in rural areas.

The virtual event was organised by Vanuatu Klaemet Infomesen blong Redy, Adapt mo Protekt (Van- KIRAP) in partnership with the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Department, Vanuatu Fisheries Department,

Vanuatu Department of Tourism, Vanuatu Public Works Department, Vanuatu Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, APEC Climate Center (APCC), Australia Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) and Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

VAN-KIRAP is the Bislama name for the Climate Information Services for Resilient Development Project in Vanuatu. It is funded by the Green Climate Fund and managed by the Government



Vila Bay, Port Vila, Efate Island, Vanuatu. Photo: © Stuart Chape

of Vanuatu through the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department in the Ministry of Climate Change, in collaboration with SPREP.

Launched in 2018, VAN-KIRAP spans four years.



## 'Next Generation' strengthens evidenced-based decision making for our Pacific

The Next Generation of Climate Projections for the Western Tropical Pacific Project provides Pacific island countries with climate change sciences to inform decision-making at policy and sectoral level.

In 2020, a virtual workshop was held to seek feedback from participants on the outputs of the project. Awareness was also raised of the role of the National Meteorological and

Hydrological Services and key sectors in sharing climate change projects to guide policy, planning and implementation for resilience.

The project aims to ensure climate science is accessible so people can factor the changes they are experiencing from climate change into their livelihoods, businesses and communities. NextGen projections are crucial in the knowledge chain for Pacific climate change science and

services. Climate change science for sector use is applied in cocoa in Samoa and Solomon Islands, coffee and root crops in Papua New Guinea, root crops in Fiji, pearl farming in Cook Islands, and in health and tourism.

The Next Generation Climate Projection for Western Pacific Project is funded by the Government of Australia through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Australia-Pacific Climate



Rainbow over Rarotonga. Photo: D.McFadzien

Partnership, CSIRO Climate Science Centre and SPREP.

It was launched in 2019 and will end in 2022.

## Reviewing the 2019 UN Climate Change Conference

A Pacific Small Islands Developing States (PSIDS) workshop was held to analyse the outcomes of the Twenty-Fifth Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP25).

The workshop provided a platform on which Pacific Parties to the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement could

analyse the outcomes of COP25 held in Madrid, Spain. It brought together close to 130 participants to take part in the dialogue across six different Pacific time zones for three days.

It received technical support from Climate Analytics through the IMPACT project as well as the One CROP+ Team.

Outcomes of the workshop informed the Post-COP25 Analysis Report which PSIDS members could use in progressing national and regional positions and priorities in their preparations leading to, during, and after COP26, Glasgow, Scotland.

The COP26 was postponed from 2020 due to COVID-19 and



The 25<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change held in 2019.

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has been rescheduled for 2021 in Glasgow.

## Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum 6 and 7

The Pacific Climate Outlook Forum (PICOF) 6 and 7 forums were held in 2020 to inform the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) on the latest climate science of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO).

This regional forum held twice a year helps Pacific islands to understand the climate and weather information that is forecast for the months to come, and how to make it available for users across different sectors.

PICOF 7 focused on fisheries and was attended by over 250 participants including the

media. This was to help Pacific NMHS's and those from the fisheries sector understand the different ways that weather and climate will impact them, so they can prepare in advance.

At the end of PICOF 6 and 7, a regional statement was developed and shared with all SPREP Member countries. This statement formed the basis for national statements tailored to suit each country.

The statement covered climate for the past six months, presented the tropical cyclone outlook and forecast the number of cyclones each

country would likely get in the coming season. It also spoke to the potential severity of the La Niña and its impacts on various sectors, with a focus on fisheries.

The PICOF forums are organised under the Pacific Meteorological Council's Climate Services Expert Panel which includes SPREP, World Meteorological Organization, Pacific Community, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Australian Bureau of Meteorology, United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,



The better informed, the better prepared people can be. Photo: D. McFadzien

University of Hawaii, Météo-France, New Zealand National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, Fiji Meteorological Service, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Climate Center and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation.



## Building resilience to ocean acidification in Fiji and Kiribati

The Pacific Partnership on Ocean Acidification (PPOA) project worked in partnership with community members in Fiji and Kiribati to strengthen their coastal resilience to the threat of ocean acidification.

In Fiji the PPOA worked in Taveuni in the districts of Vuna and Wainieli over two weeks. The activities included the planting of over 2,500 mangrove seedlings in the Navakaoa nursery, an initiative undertaken by the Women's Group of Navakaoa.

Giant clam restoration is also recognised under the PPOA project as an adaptation

option and promotes coastal ecosystem biodiversity. A total of 111 giant baby clams were transported from Matangi Resort for redistribution to the marine protected area (MPA) in Vuna as part of the activities undertaken in Taveuni. In addition, four coral nurseries were installed in Vuna and Wainikeli, and three new MPAs were also established in the vicinity.

On the atoll of Tarawa, Kiribati, the PPOA team in collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries successfully established a first-of-its-kind locally managed marine area that

incorporates coral, mangrove and seagrass restoration.

PPOA complemented this work by publishing the Seagrass Restoration Guidelines for Kiribati and Mangrove Planting Guidelines for Kiribati. These publications will enable local agencies to continue seagrass vegetation restoration and mangrove planting work on Tarawa and other islands in Kiribati.

The Pacific Partnership on Ocean Acidification project is a collaborative effort between SPREP, the Pacific Community, and the University of the South Pacific to build resilience to



Photo: D.McFadzien

ocean acidification in Pacific island communities. It is funded by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the government of the Principality of Monaco.

## Helping to understand climate change in Vanuatu

Strengthening climate change awareness in Vanuatu was at the core of a one-day training for national media and communications officers in Port Vila. The event took place a week before Vanuatu held its national climate change week.

In recognition of the important role played by Pacific media and government communications officers to share information and help build awareness and knowledge, a partnership

has come together to help empower more news on climate change across Vanuatu.

Topics covered in the training include actions to address climate change, the science behind climate change, an overview of climate change at the international and regional levels and how this impacts Vanuatu, as well as challenges faced by Vanuatu media when reporting on climate change, and ways to address these.

The Strengthen Climate Change Awareness in Vanuatu media training was implemented by the Government of Vanuatu in partnership with SPREP. It was funded by the Regional Pacific NDC Hub and supported by the Pacific Community.

Assistance was also provided through the Climate Information Services for Resilient Development Project in Vanuatu, a four-year project funded by the Green Climate Fund and managed by the



Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department in the Ministry of Climate Change, in collaboration with SPREP.

## Solomon Islands Met Services establishes Ocean and Marine Weather Services Division

Solomon Islands Meteorological Services (SIMS) committed to their role as one of the authorities responsible for ensuring the safety and well-being of mariners in Solomon Islands, by establishing the Ocean and Climate Services; and Marine Weather Services Division.

A workshop brought together all responsible national agencies, stakeholders and

community members to learn of information provided by SIMS on ocean and marine weather services.

Experiences and lessons learnt were shared by all stakeholders that have roles and responsibilities relating to Ocean and Marine Weather services. Discussions were held on how to address gaps and challenges to the safety and well-being of the

communities, which has led to the formation of the new division.

The workshop was funded by the Government of Ireland, the Climate Risk Early Warning System Pacific Small Island Developing States (CREWS Pacific SIDS) project and the Environment and Climate Change Canada through the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), SPREP,



Photo: © Stuart Chape

and the Government of Solomon Islands.



## Third Pacific Ocean Climate Change Conference a success

Over 300 people from across the Pacific region participated in the Third Pacific Ocean Pacific Climate Change Conference hosted online through a partnership between the Government of Samoa, Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington, the National University of Samoa and SPREP.

Initially to be hosted in Samoa at the National University of Samoa, the conference was adapted to suit the COVID-19 restrictions, resulting in a

strong online presence from interested delegates.

The theme of the four-day 2020 conference was Blue Pacific, Climate Action for Climate Resilience. There were more than 100 presentations and panel discussions about the science, the impacts, and the solutions to climate change in the Pacific.

A book titled *In the Eye of the Storm – Reflections from the Second Pacific Climate Change Conference*, a compilation of contributions from some

of the keynote speakers at the Second Pacific Climate Change Conference held in 2018, was launched during the 2020 conference.

The Third Pacific Ocean Pacific Climate Change Conference was held in October, and featured keynote speakers from across the region including the Hon. Prime Minister of Samoa, Tuilaepa



Sailele Malielegaoi, the Hon. Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, James Marape, and Mr Adrian Orr, Governor of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand.

## Enhancing the climate resilience of Niue's private sector

Niue's private sector has been the major driver of economic development in Niue in the last eight years and is the largest component of Niue's economy, particularly in the tourism sector. However, the private sector must adapt to the climate change threats to continued development.

A private sector programme of reforms and interventions is being developed under the Niue Green Climate Fund National Designated Authority (GCF NDA) Readiness and

Support Programme to address barriers and challenges constraining the private sector to effectively manage climate change risks.

SPREP, as the Delivery Partner for the project, engaged a consultant to support the implementation of this programme for the Niue Chamber of Commerce (NCOC) in partnership with the Government of Niue. The project is funded by the Green Climate Fund.

Stakeholder consultations were held in 2020 to help inform a Private Sector Assessment and Options Report. These were coordinated both face-to-face, and also virtually.

The focus was on tourism and agriculture as priority productive sectors as well as their adaptive capacity in light of the climate change risks. Interventions were discussed to strengthen the resilience of these sectors.



The report aims to prepare and equip the NCOC with the necessary means to support Niue's private sector engagement with donors and others.

## Inclusivity embraced in Pacific Resilience Partnership voice

Breaking new ground in the formation of the new Communications and Engagement Strategy for the Pacific Resilience Partnership, the Pacific Resilience Partnership Task Force approved the new Communications and Engagement Sub-Committee to the PRP. Known as the CESC, the membership includes those from across Pacific islands media networks, NGO's as well as government members.

Coordinated by SPREP, the CESC was formed following

a workshop held on the cusp of the COVID-19 restrictions, pioneering virtual methods. A physical workshop was held in both Fiji and Samoa, bringing the two groups of different workshop participants together through online platforms.

This resulted in the endorsed Pacific Resilience Partnership Communications and Engagement Strategy, a sub-committee, a funded action-plan, and new branding for the Pacific Resilience Partnership.

The formation of these products was undertaken by

a range of partners, including the PRP Support Unit and members from the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific, Pacific Islands News Association, Pacific Environment Journalists Network, Shifting the Power Coalition, Government of Samoa, and Tokelau.

The activity was funded by the Government of Ireland, and Intra-ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) Project supported by the European Union.







Healthy ecosystems are foundations for sustainable development and adaptation and resilience to climate change. Pacific environments also support globally significant levels of biodiversity that form part of our critical ecosystems and support significant tourism economies. Under its vision and mandate, SPREP provides regional leadership and technical guidance and serves as a conduit for Member states in optimising the implementation of several global MEAs and regional environmental frameworks.

Waya Island, Fiji. Photo © Stuart Chape

## Geographic Information Systems for Protected Areas in the Pacific

Over 85 people from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu have been trained in the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and the Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal (PIPAP).

Conducted virtually for each country, the training sessions demonstrated the upgraded tools and features of the PIPAP. This was followed by practical exercises to build the interest of participants in using the portal as a preferred information source for their daily work on protected areas.

The GIS component taught basic skills followed by hands-on, practical fieldwork in capturing data using handheld global positioning system (GPS) units. The data was uploaded to freely available software

(QGIS) to produce basic site maps.

This activity led by SPREP was a partnership between SPREP, EU-OACPS BIOPAMA, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Samoa, Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation of Vanuatu, Climate Change Directorate of Marshall Islands, Ministry of Environment of Solomon Islands and the UNEP-GEF Inform Project executed by SPREP.

The EU-OACPS BIOPAMA programme is an initiative of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific (OACPS) Group of States financed by the European Union (EU) 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund.

The training was conducted by SPREP through its BIOPAMA-assisted Regional Programme of Support for Protected Areas

“The training will assist us to make better use of the PIPAP – the information and resource platform and tool for Pacific protected areas and conservation areas. The skills acquired will enable improved mapping of the boundaries and other important features of our protected and conserved areas, which would inform better planning and management of these areas in the long term,”

Ms. Agnetha Vave-Karamui, Chief Conservation Officer, Environment and Conservation Division, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, Solomon Islands.

(SPREP-PA), fulfilling its role to deliver capacity building and training in the use of BIOPAMA tools and services.

In the Pacific, BIOPAMA is implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in partnership with SPREP and the European Commission Joint Research Centre. This partnership has seen significant enhancements to the PIPAP, which is the region's one-stop resource for protected area information.



Huvalu Forest Conservation Area, Niue. Photo: © Stuart Chape



## Keeping record of stranded Dolphins, Dugongs and Whales

A central database for all Pacific island Members to analyse and record the data of stranded whales, dolphins and dugongs has been established.

This improves upon the previous APOD (A Pattern of Whales and Dolphins) database which is obsolete. The new platform is through Flukebook ([flukebook.org](http://flukebook.org)).

A data form was created to help capture data in the field, as well as guides on how to

use the database for different user types.

The previous APOD database was a trial and is no longer supported. Important information on the distribution and causes of mortality to whales and dolphins was not being recorded as the database had declined in use.

Recording this data will improve understanding of whale, dolphin and dugong

populations and threats to their survival in the Pacific, which is an important feature of the Whale and Dolphin Action Plan. Access to the database will be through a link to the SPREP website.

This work was made possible by a secondment from the New Zealand Department of Conservation and was enhanced with input from the South Pacific Whale Research Consortium.



A deceased spinner dolphin (*Stenella longirostris*) is measured by NGO Opération Cétacés in New Caledonia. This data is then entered into the Strandings of Oceania Database. Photo: Opération Cétacés

## Protecting Mt Talau National Park in the Kingdom of Tonga

Roaming pigs negatively impact the native flora and fauna at Mt Talau in the Vava'u island group in Tonga. They disturb the soil by uprooting the forest floor in search of food which undermines tree roots, destroys young vegetation and reduces the ability of the forest to regenerate.

In 2014 a small pig exclusion fence was created around the last remaining young stand of *Casuarina buehlowii*, a plant that is endemic to Mt Talau, to protect the species. The fence was effective at keeping pigs away from the site, resulting in the successful germination of more seedlings of the plant and the development of a thick humus layer within the plot.

In 2020 a 900-metre fence enclosing three hectares was installed to protect and encourage natural regeneration of a larger area of the site.

Mt Talau is a habitat for the endemic Tongan whistler, or hengahenga which has been protected since 2015 through the management of rat populations at the site, which has resulted in a boost to the Tongan whistler population.

The work complements other invasive species management at the site including weed control and is a great example of what can be achieved under the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) Programme “Resilient Ecosystems – Resilient Communities.”

The activity was funded by the Global Environment Facility 6 Regional Invasives Project (GEF6 RIP). This was a partnership between the Department of Environment of the Tonga Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications, and the Vava'u Environmental Protection Association.

The GEF6 RIP is implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and executed by SPREP.

The project works nationally in the Marshall Islands, Niue, Tonga and Tuvalu, and has a regional component. Implementation of the GEF6 RIP is supported by the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support

Service (PRISMSS), which is the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service Programme. It is a collaboration of leading organisations supporting invasive species management

for biodiversity protection in the Pacific. PRISMSS is delivering five regional programmes aimed at stepping up on-the-ground management action in the Pacific.



The Opening Ceremony was officiated by the Governor of Vava'u, Lord Fakatulolo, with the Minister for MEIDECC, Hon Poasi Tei. The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Paula Ma'u, members of the community, and government officials were in attendance at the official opening of the new pig exclusion fence in Mount Talau. Photo: Vasiti Tulikihakau



The new fence to exclude pigs from the Mount Tala National Park, Vava'u islands, Kingdom of Tonga. Photo: Mele Tovi

## Congratulations 2020 Invasive Species Battler of the Year!

Mr Huggard Tongatule, the National Invasive Species Coordinator for Niue is the fourth person to receive the Pacific Invasive Species Battler of the Year award since its inception in 2017.

The award recognised the comprehensive invasive species management programme implemented in Niue.

Along with managing invasive pigs, Mr Tongatule controls high-priority weeds, progresses natural enemy natural solutions for widespread weeds such as taro vine, and has successfully raised awareness of invasive species within Niue.

The Pacific Invasive Species Battler of Year Award recognises outstanding outcomes for biodiversity from

the use of minimal resources by Pacific invasive species practitioners. The hard work and dedication at the grass roots level has resulted in outstanding outcomes for Pacific biodiversity.

The 2020 Award was presented during the launch of the Pacific Battler Lounge side-event for the 10<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas.

Mr Tongatule is restoring two large areas of Huvalu Forest in Niue. He is also undertaking a feasibility assessment and the development of an operational plan to eradicate rats from Niue.



Recipient of the 2020 Invasive Species Battler of the Year Award Mr Huggard Tongatule and the Director of Environment and GEF Operational Focal Point Mr Haden Talagi at the launch of the new Niuean Invasive Species Battler Vehicle funded by the GEF 6 Regional Invasives Project. Photo: Tofimua Matagi

“I am lucky to be working in a field with such passionate and dedicated colleagues who all deserve to win this award. The award is more of a recognition of what we have achieved in Niue rather than what I have achieved as an individual because we all know that invasive species management is everyone’s responsibility,”

Mr Huggard Tongatule

## Managing invasive species to support climate change adaptation

Three Pacific Island PhD students began their studies in 2020 with a focus on assisting Pacific island Members to capture local data to support climate change adaptation outcomes as a result of managing invasive species in the Pacific.

The students are working with SPREP, the University of Newcastle, PRISMSS programmes and Member countries. They will monitor ecosystem resilience following the removal of rats; explore the relationship between people, invasive species and climate change; and remotely capture the increased distribution of invasive plants following severe cyclones.

This is a regional activity with pilot countries including Niue, Samoa and Tonga.

This initiative will build capacity in the Pacific islands to design and implement their invasive species projects. It will also assist in seeking future partnerships and funding opportunities to address climate resilience through invasive species management.

Linking the studies to PRISMSS programmes provides the students with additional experts to assist them and ensures that outcomes will be relevant and benefit the region.

The PRISMSS programmes this activity will focus on are ‘Resilient Ecosystems – Resilient Communities’, ‘Natural Enemies – Natural and Solutions’ and ‘Predator Free Pacific’.

This initiative is supported by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade under



PhD student Siosina Katoa researching current standard practices performed by the Environment Department for monitoring biodiversity prior to rodent removal on Tonumea Island in the Ha’apai island group, Tonga. Following rodent removal, the terrestrial and coastal marine environment will be monitored to demonstrate an improved resilience of the ecosystems. Photo: Mele Tovi

the project Managing Invasive Species for Climate Change Adaptation in the Pacific, a

PRISMSS-NZ collaboration for Pacific resilience.



## Risk of Turtle extinction assessment in the Pacific

To better understand the status of turtles in the Pacific islands region, an assessment of extinction risk for marine turtle species in the region was commissioned by SPREP through the By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management (BIEM) Initiative.

The extinction risk assessment is considered an essential step toward strengthening support for marine turtle conservation and management in Pacific island nations.

The 2017 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species lists the status of the six marine turtle species found in the Pacific as:

- Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) – Oceania subpopulation Critically Endangered;
- Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) – Critically Endangered;
- Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) – Vulnerable;
- Green (*Chelonia mydas*) – Endangered;
- Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) – Vulnerable; and

Flatback Turtle (*Natator depressus*) – Data Deficient.

The key steps in carrying out the extinction risk assessment include a comprehensive literature review and gathering of spatial data from satellite tracks, nesting sites, by-catch events and flipper tag returns.

While there is no shortage of literature and data on turtles in the Pacific, the challenge is to collate, distil, assess and understand this data in terms of how different factors, such as biological traits and various threats, work together and impact on the viability of a population. There is also the need for other factors to be understood, such as the impact of climate and changing temperatures on reproduction.

A virtual side-event during the 10<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas was hosted by the BIEM Initiative presenting the work as of October 2020. The event was titled ‘Assessing the risk of Turtle extinction in the Pacific to inform regional conservation approaches.’



Satellite tagging of marine turtles is an important tool in understanding their life history and identifying conservation priorities.

The turtle risk assessment is part of the BIEM Initiative, which SPREP is leading to deliver Key Result Area 5 of the Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) programme.

Funded by the European Union and the Government of Sweden, the EUR 45 million PEUMP programme promotes sustainable management and sound ocean

governance for food security and economic growth, while addressing climate change resilience and conservation of marine biodiversity. It follows a comprehensive approach, integrating issues related to oceanic fisheries, coastal fisheries, community development, marine conservation and capacity building under one regional action.

## Pacific Turtle database upgraded

The Turtle Research and Monitoring Database System (TREDS) has been upgraded from MS Access to a web-based Database System. Users can now access their turtle data from anywhere in the world, record data when offline, and upload their data once in the office. Users now also have access to new features such as generating maps within the database using available spatial data and uploading photos to help determine habitat degradation over time.

This new system will improve the method of recording data

and aims to reinvigorate turtle research and data collection in the Pacific. The initial testing of this upgraded online database was conducted with a range of people involved in turtle conservation from across the Pacific region. Virtual training with SPREP staff has been held on how to properly manage and use the TREDS system.

TREDS is the regional database system for marine turtle research and monitoring carried out by SPREP Members. It manages data from various governments, non-government organisations (NGOs) and



community groups who undertake research, monitoring and tagging.

The early development of TREDS was a collaborative effort by SPREP, the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council, the Pacific Community, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service,

the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Marine Research Foundation and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre. The new web-based database was a collaborative effort between SPREP and Eighty Options consultancy in Australia.

## Celebrating 10 Years of implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the Pacific

The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity, also known as the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2020.

A special virtual event was held to commemorate the occasion – “A decade of Nagoya Protocol Journey in the Pacific”. The event was coordinated by the ABS Regional Project with support from UNEP, ABS Initiative and the University of New South Wales. It highlighted Pacific work to implement provisions relating to access and benefit sharing under the Nagoya Protocol, shared experiences as well as goals and aspirations from across the Pacific islands.

Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea and Tuvalu presented their experiences with the Nagoya Protocol with partners, such as the University of New South Wales and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, making short interventions.

Ten Pacific islands have ratified the Nagoya Protocol: Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji,

Kiribati, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

The joint efforts by SPREP and the ABS Initiative have resulted in numerous national consultations, regional capacity building workshops and training across the Pacific islands over the past four years.

Technical assistance and support have been provided, drawing expertise from the ABS Roster of Experts to help develop ABS policy and legislative frameworks for Member countries. Significant progress has been made. For example, Palau is now the first country in the Pacific to have a standalone ABS law.

Specialised training on contract negotiation; the use of the ABS-Clearing House Mechanism; and Traditional Knowledge and Bioprospecting has been undertaken with Member countries.

SPREP coordinates the ABS Regional Project funded by the Global Environment Facility and implemented by UN Environment, which supports 14 Pacific islands to progress the Nagoya Protocol at the national level.



Women's Group at the Aopo community consultation in Samoa with SPREP and the Ministry of Nature Resources and Environment, at Aopo Village.

Dead forest on sinking island, Solomon Islands. © Stuart Chape



Forest, Guadalcanal island, Solomon Islands. © Stuart Chape





## Pacific Invasives Species Battler Series grows

Four new publications have been added to the 'Pacific Invasive Battler Series,' and are free downloads from the SPREP website to help Pacific practitioners, environmental managers, government and community members in specific areas of invasive species management.

These new publications are: Use natural enemies to manage widespread weeds in the Pacific; Manage low-incidence priority weeds to conserve Pacific biodiversity; Protect our islands with biosecurity,

and Build resilient ecosystems and communities by managing invasive species in high-priority sites.

Developed through the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS), the Battler Series is an important resource for those working to restore ecosystems and manage invasive species. It provides tested best practice approaches through step-by-step guidance, case studies and visual aids for those battling invasive species.



The series provides information and case studies to assist those working in the field

and is written in a user-friendly way.

## PEBACC hands over Taveuni Islands Mua Native Tree Nursery

The Mua Native Tree Nursery was officially handed over to the Government of Fiji by SPREP through the Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) project at a ceremony held at the Mua Agricultural Research Station in Taveuni. The Fiji Ministries of Forestry and Agriculture committed to an inter-Ministerial approach for the management, maintenance and development of the nursery. This includes the appointment of a permanent Nursery Manager and delivery of seedlings to partners. The nursery is housed at the Ministry of Agriculture Research and Development Centre at Mua in Taveuni.

The native tree nursery was constructed by SPREP through the PEBACC project in collaboration with the Ministry of Forestry in 2018. Its purpose

is to supply seedlings to the Taveuni Reforestation and Agro-forestry Programme, an ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) programme under PEBACC supported by the Ministries of Forestry, Agriculture and iTaukei Affairs.

The nursery can hold up to 50,000 seedlings. Native trees being nurtured in the facility include Vesi, Yasi, Dilo, Tavola, Kaudamu, Dakua, Makadre, Sea, Dawa, Duvula, Male, Ivi, Moivi and Kaunicina. Seedlings of Soursop, Avocado and Vetiver grass are also grown in the nursery.

Through PEBACC support, over 4,000 native and fruit tree seedlings have been planted in the Taveuni districts of Wainikeli, Cakaudrove and Vuna.

The Taveuni Reforestation and Agro-forestry Programme

was further supported by Conservation International, the Pacific Community Land Resources Division and Scientific Forestry Services to assist the communities in their planting efforts.

The PEBACC project was a five-year initiative implemented by SPREP in partnership with the governments of Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The project was funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), which supports this initiative on the basis of a decision by the German Bundestag. The project focused on strengthening and protecting the role of natural ecosystem services to enhance resilience to climate change. PEBACC ended in September 2020.



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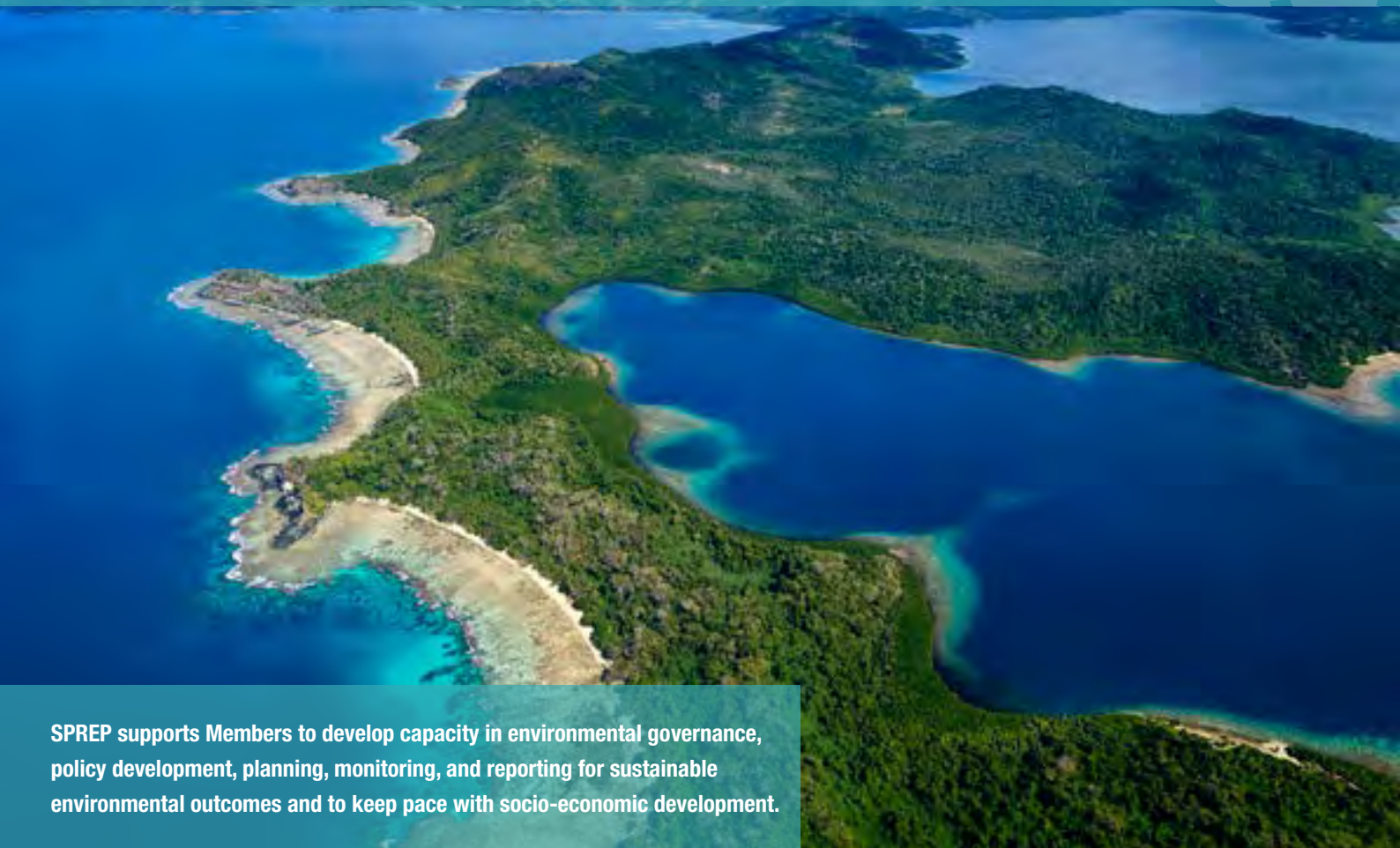


▲ Fiji Ministry of Forestry Director North, Mr Moape Lotawa. Photo: Fiji Ministry of Forestry

▼ Fiji Ministry of Agriculture Senior Research Officer, Mr Rohit Lal, signs the hand-over agreement with Fiji Ministry of Forestry Director North, Mr Moape Lotawa, and PEBACC Project Manager, Mr Herman Timmermans. Photo: Fiji Ministry of Agriculture.

Chief guests with community members in front of the newly unveiled signboard for the Mua Native Tree nursery in Taveuni. Photo: Fiji Ministry of Forestry.





SPREP supports Members to develop capacity in environmental governance, policy development, planning, monitoring, and reporting for sustainable environmental outcomes and to keep pace with socio-economic development.

Kioa Island, Fiji © Stuart Chape

## Pacific virtual training on environmental governance a success

Over 245 participants from Australia, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Vanuatu expressed 100 per cent satisfaction with the Regional Training on Environment Impact Assessments (EIA), Stakeholder Engagement and Social Impact Assessment in the Pacific.

SPREP and the World Bank, through the Pacific Learning Partnership for Environmental Sustainability (PLP-ESS), delivered eight thematic interactive training modules for the region in response to the travel bans in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

By conducting the training through live webinars a wider range of participants was reached. They ranged from environmental officers and

development project managers to a Deputy Permanent Secretary for Environment, as well as World Bank senior specialists, and others not normally part of environmental assessment training, including Ministry of Health, Infrastructure Ministries, waste departments, university students, NGOs and members of the public.

By reaching more demographics, the training improved understanding of the value of stakeholder engagement as well as the legal requirements for engagement as part of EIA and social impact assessments. The success of the training was partly due to the participatory activities in each module along with the basic tools for stakeholder engagement and social impact assessment.



The team at SPREP conducting regional virtual training on Environmental Impact Assessment, Stakeholder Engagement and Social Impact Assessment in the Pacific

The PLP-ESS is a partnership between SPREP, University of the South Pacific (USP), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank. It was formed to help Pacific islands gain more opportunities for

training and capacity building, improve access to technical environmental impact and assessment specialists, and increase the development of regionally focused tertiary qualifications.

“...we appreciate the training as we manage many projects and have to commission appropriate EIAs for them. So malo lava and thanks for this. This move to deliver virtual training has opened up new opportunities allowing many more to participate and not just a few who would get to travel to attend training.”

Sagauga Leilani M Galuvao Assistant Chief Executive Officer,  
Land Transport and Infrastructure Division, Samoa.





## Pacific milestone achieved with five national State of Environment Reports

Five State of Environment (SoE) reports were approved in 2020 for Cook Islands, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tonga. The SoE reports provide an overview of the environment across thematic areas and will assist these countries to develop their National Environment Management Strategies (NEMS).

The thematic areas are Culture and Heritage; Atmosphere and Climate; Coastal and Marine; Freshwater Resources;

Land; Biodiversity and Built Environment.

Applying the Drivers, Pressures, State, Impact and Response (DPSIR) model, the reports describe the environment, causal relationships, and environmental effects, based on quantitative data relating to the state of the environment, supplemented by stakeholder input.

SPREP through the Inform Project and the ACP MEA Phase 2 Project assisted the countries to develop their reports.

Support was provided for recruitment of consultants, data collection, training, uploading data to portals, coordinating in-country consultations, and the review and graphic design of the final reports.

ACP MEA Phase 2 Project from 2014–2018 is the European Union's 'Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environment Agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries Phase II Project' implemented by the

UN Environment Programme (UNEP) with SPREP.

The 'Building National and Regional Capacity to Implement Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEA) by Strengthening Planning and State of Environment Assessment and Reporting in the Pacific Project', also known as Inform, is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and executed by SPREP from 2016–2021.

## National Environment Management Strategies

Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tonga were supported with the development of their NEMS.

As an environmental policy framework with strategic directions, the NEMS has the potential to strengthen partnerships within different sectors and provide opportunities for funding support from donor partners for these countries.

The NEMS is a commitment by these countries to ensure

national development targets and sectoral planning activities are carried out coherently and promote environmental sustainability.

It also provides direction to the government to fulfil its national, regional and global commitments under international frameworks, Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEA), and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).



The Raggiana bird of paradise is endemic to the forests of Papua New Guinea.  
Photo: SPREP/P.McDonald



Mangroves growing in Pohnpei State, Federated States of Micronesia.  
Photo: D.McFadzien

## Protecting Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction

Technical support was provided to the Pacific Small Island Developing States on the review and analysis of proposed Articles for the Internationally Legally Binding Instrument (ILBI) for protecting Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), as well as drafting text for how the BBNJ would apply EIA, and the process for strategic environmental assessments (SEA) in the high seas.

Due to COVID-19, several international United Nations meetings of the Parties were postponed including the finalisation of the ILBI for protecting marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction. Instead a number of virtual

forums were hosted by the UN to discuss these, and Parties have continued the revisions of their positions on proposed articles for the ILBI.

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) requested the environmental assessment specialist from SPREP to draft the text on SEA on behalf of PSIDS and to work with Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. This formed a consensus on the SEA process for PIFS which is being used in negotiations with other joint Parties to further the Pacific islands position on the ILBI.



Photo: SPREP/T.Hartley

Marine biodiversity in Federated States of Micronesia. Photo:D.McFadzien

## Geographic Information Systems conference in Samoa

The revival of the Samoa Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Users Group was one of numerous results of a conference that united GIS practitioners in Samoa for the first time.

The conference raised awareness on the importance and power of GIS, open data, open-source software, spatial data sharing and data standards.

SPREP, through the Inform project partnership with SkyEye Samoa, coordinated the event titled 'Free and Open-Source Software for Geospatial (FOSS4G) State of

the Map (SotM) 2020 Ocean Conference'.

This was a hybrid event with participants attending at a local hub venue organised by in-country GIS practitioners, which fed into the regional livestream of the FOSS4G 2020 Oceania Conference.

The SPREP regional Inform project shared GIS applications and user cases from the regional perspective to the 85 participants. The conference also introduced the Samoa Environment Portal, showcasing freely available OpenStreetMap data for Samoa and the rest of the Pacific.



The SPREP Inform project is a four-year GEF-funded project, implemented by UNEP and executed by SPREP in 14 Pacific island countries, including Samoa.

A one-day conference aiming to raise awareness on the importance and power of Geographic Information Systems (GIS)



## Environmental Assessment capacity building with Kiribati

The Kiribati Environment and Conservation Division sought assistance from SPREP after identifying gaps in their current development approval system including stakeholder engagement and design of appropriate investigatory studies.

Support was provided for reviewing donor-funded EIA reports and updating the current Environmental Management Act to improve implementation of EIAs in Kiribati.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this support for Kiribati was deskbound through technical reviews of environmental legislation and EIA reports,

as well as webinar training support for environmental assessment.

The training was divided into five modules, focusing on the key steps in the EIA process related to the Kiribati legislation and referring to good practice as outlined in the SPREP-developed Regional EIA Guidelines – Strengthening Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines for Pacific Island Countries and Territories.

The training was delivered by SPREP and was supported by the PLP-ESS, a collaboration established in 2019 between SPREP, World Bank, ADB and USP.



“The EIA Screening toolkit is very useful, and I will adopt this screening toolkit at ECD and will start trialling it on development applications we will be dealing with.

Thanks to SPREP and the PLP partners for their support and sharing in session one of our training,”

Mr Puta Tofinga, Kiribati ECD Senior Environment Officer.

Virtual environmental assessment capacity building

## OpenStreetMap Data available to serve Pacific islands

Geographic Information System (GIS) users in the region can now access and use OpenStreetMap (OSM) data to produce maps freely. This is made possible through the Pacific Environment Portal established as part of the Inform project.

OSM comes as a bundle of individual GIS layers, pre-styled in a Quantum Geographic Information System project, which people can use as a base map or combine with other spatial datasets. This data can improve the basis of decision-making on a range of subjects related to sustainable development in the region.

GIS practitioners and users in the region often face challenges with the lack of resources to produce maps, technical learning opportunities and budgets. Likewise, there is also a challenge in using data for decisions and policy making.

OSM comes as a free resource for GIS users in the region to use Pacific-focused datasets such as buildings, roads and point of interests to produce base maps.

These datasets are available for all 14 Pacific island countries involved in the Inform project.



In addition, OSM data for seven Pacific territories will also be added: Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Tokelau, and Wallis and Futuna.

The SPREP Inform project is a four-year Global Environment Facility-funded project, implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme and executed by SPREP in 14 Pacific island countries, including Samoa.



## Strategic Environmental Assessment Guidelines launched for Pacific Islands Countries and Territories



The first of its kind planning tool for the Pacific region, the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for Pacific island countries and territories is now online for free download in French and English.

The SEA guidelines were developed through extensive consultations with SPREP Members and partners. They are to assist Pacific island governments in ensuring environmental and social considerations are fully integrated in national and sectoral development plans, policies, strategies and programmes.

The three years of consultation and refinement includes case

studies, tips and tool kits for undertaking an SEA as well as drafting policies and legislation to enable SEA.

The development of the guidelines started in September 2018 and concluded in May 2020, with funding through the EU ACPMEA2 project and the UNEP Swedish Fund.

ACP MEA Phase 2 Project from 2014 – 2018 is the European Union's "Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environment Agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries Phase II Project" implemented by UN Environment with SPREP.

Photo: © Charles Netzler

## Technical review of draft Environmental Bill for Nauru

Nauru has its first Environmental Management and Climate Change Act as of 2020 which includes provision for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA).

SPREP has worked with the Government of Nauru on engagement for drafting an Environment Bill for over five years providing in-country EIA and Multilateral Environment Agreement Training. Support

was also provided to ensure Nauru representatives were present at EIA and SEA workshops held in Australia, Samoa and New Zealand.

Technical review and input into the Act was provided by SPREP before endorsement by the Government of Nauru. In particular, SPREP assisted with ensuring the processes for implementing the EIA were included in their proposed Act.



Anibare coastline, Nauru. Photo: © Stuart Chape



D. McFadzien



D. McFadzien



## Drafting Environmental Impact Assessment Policy and Regulations for Tokelau

Following on from face-to-face EIA awareness training in Tokelau provided by SPREP pre-pandemic; SPREP adapted plans to suit COVID-19 restrictions, applying remote assistance to Tokelau in developing an EIA policy and regulations.

Drafting of the EIA policy was conducted remotely with Tokelau's Department of Economic Development, Natural Resources and Environment who engaged with

the communities of each atoll for their input.

Three atolls – Atafu, Nukunonu and Fakaofu make up Tokelau.

SPREP drafted an EIA policy for Tokelau, defining the EIA process as well as how it would be triggered and conducted for proposed developments in the atolls.

The draft policy was accompanied by draft EIA regulations which outlined the EIA process and key tasks for developers and regulators.



Training in Tokelau

## Storing data in the time of COVID-19

SPREP has strengthened online information management and storage of environment data portals developed through the Inform project with our Pacific islands.

Local storage on-premises has multiple risk factors such as disasters. However, hosting country data on the innovative cloud technology through the Drupal 9 Inform portals helps to protect against such risk factors. Cloud servers minimise the adverse impacts associated with loss of service.

The introduction of this new norm, virtual reality, by the pandemic reinforces the

importance of sharing data virtually and storing it on the cloud for ease of access. Despite travel restrictions, the data portals allow users to easily access and share information.

Inform environment data portals are continuously updated. There are National Environment Data Portals developed for 14 Pacific island countries as well as a Pacific Environment Data Portal.

In 2020, with the launch of Drupal 9, the Inform team also migrated and upgraded the portals for the countries. Drupal is a content

management software, with Drupal 9 offering better security, faster performance, and portals working seamlessly across all devices.

The online portals established in partnership with SPREP through the Inform project assist Member countries by providing easy access and safe storage for environmental datasets. These are used for monitoring, evaluating and analysing environmental conditions and trends to support environmental planning, forecasting, and reporting requirements at all levels.





SPREP promotes evidence-based strategic planning within countries to develop strategies that address emerging priorities and opportunities in locally appropriate ways. In assisting Pacific island countries and territories to build capacity to implement waste, chemicals, and pollutants programmes, SPREP continues to focus on in-country human resource support, technical cooperation, and a learn-by doing approach for longer-term self-sufficiency.

Coral reef Samoa. Photo: © Stuart Chape

## Managing Persistent Organic Pollutants in PNG

One of the most prevalent persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in Papua New Guinea (PNG), with links to cancer in humans and which is also extremely toxic to fish and marine invertebrates, was targeted during a scoping mission.

The scoping mission for the pesticide Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) in PNG was funded through the Project Preparation Grant of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in SIDS (ISLANDS) Programme.

To prevent further exposure of people to the dangers of POPs, the Stockholm Convention requires all Parties to develop National Implementation Plans (NIPs) on managing these hazardous chemicals. PNG developed its NIP in 2006 which identified

stockpiles of obsolete POPs around the country but could not implement it due to lack of funding.

To help PNG prepare for ISLANDS, SPREP led a scoping mission in 2019, supported by UNEP. The fieldwork covered five provinces and seven towns including Goroka and Yonki in the Eastern Highlands Province; Lae in Morobe Province; Rabaul in East New Britain Province; Alotau and Misima in Milne Bay Province; and Port Moresby in the National Capital District.

The mission was tasked to verify stockpiles of POPs as reported in the PNG NIP and to safeguard them in preparation for removal and disposal under ISLANDS.

All reported stocks of DDT in Goroka and much of the Highlands region were found to be missing. Provincial

authorities reported instances of theft which saw the DDT sold to farmers for use in gardens. However, the team was able to verify and safeguard PNG's largest stockpile of obsolete DDT in Rabaul. Two 20-foot containers filled with 1,400 boxes of DDT were discovered. Knowing the dangers of DDT, an initiative resulted in the purchase of two shipping containers by the East New Britain Provincial Government to store all repacked DDT. Unfortunately, the containers were raided by thieves with some of the DDT being stolen.

Over time, the contents of the containers were spilled around the area, leaving the surrounding communities exposed to DDT. The SPREP-led mission team and members of a village cleaned up the spilled stockpile of DDT and repacked an estimated 12 tons back into



Managing POPs in PNG.

the two containers which were securely locked with welded bars and padlocks.

The mission team also delivered four DDT Safeguard Training sessions in Alotau, Goroka, Kokopo and Misima, based around the principles of Workplace Hazards, Hazards Identification and Risk Assessment at the Workplace. All 40 participants of the training will be called upon to assist with the removal of POPs when the GEF ISLANDS Project is implemented.



## About DDT in Papua New Guinea

The pesticide DDT was once a popular method of controlling vector borne diseases such as malaria, which was identified by the World Health Organization in 2017 as a major cause of mortality in PNG, with 94% of the population at high risk of infection.

DDT was also widely used across the agricultural and industrial sectors in PNG. As a hazardous chemical, the use and disposal of DDT was regulated by the PNG Government under its environmental management regime and then under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

The Stockholm Convention is a legally binding international instrument, designed to gradually decrease the presence of POPs in the environment. When the toxic effects of DDT on humans and animals were discovered in the early 1970s, most countries started to ban production and use. PNG, as a Party to the Stockholm Convention, officially banned the use of the DDT in 1983. All DDT stocks in PNG were abandoned in warehouses and sheds around the country when the ban came into effect. Despite the ban, people still use DDT for farming, fishing and even lice treatment and control in children.



## About PCBs in Papua New Guinea

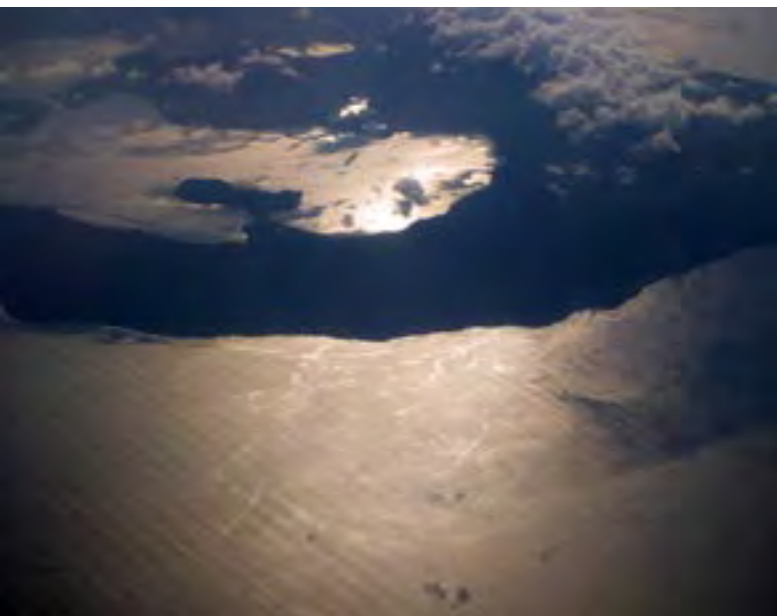
The other most prevalent POPs chemical in PNG to come under the 2020 scoping mission, funded through the GEF ISLANDS Programme, was Polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB).

PCBs are often found in used oil drained from electrical equipment such as transformers and capacitors during maintenance. PCB-containing oils are also banned under the Stockholm Convention and PNG Power Limited has since ceased using it.

However, PCB contaminated oils were detected by the mission team across the country. The team collected 122 samples of used oil from transformers, capacitors, storage drums and tanks and tested them for PCB using Dexsil test kits. The results indicated possible PCB contamination in 11 samples. This translates to approximately 612,000 litres of potentially PCB contaminated oils that were present in the provinces visited.



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## About GEF Islands Programme in PNG

With assistance from the ISLANDS Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and SPREP are working with PNG and other SPREP Members as part of this latest global initiative aimed at improving management of chemicals and wastes.

The ISLANDS Programme is a USD 450 million, five-year initiative backed by the Global

Environment Facility (GEF) and partners for implementation in all Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Caribbean, Indian Ocean and Pacific.

The Pacific Child Project that falls under the ISLANDS Programme is worth USD 20 million. It is implemented by UNEP with SPREP as the executing partner for Pacific SIDS.

## Working with PacWastePlus

The PacWastePlus programme is a 64-month project funded by the European Union and implemented by SPREP across 14 Pacific island countries and Timor-Leste, which is now in its implementation phase. The programme addresses both the cost-effective and sustainable management of waste and pollution in the priority waste streams of hazardous wastes including asbestos, healthcare waste, and e-waste; solid



**SPREP**  
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional  
Environment Programme



wastes including organic waste, disaster waste, bulky waste, and recyclables; and related aspects of wastewater.

The PacWastePlus programme is implemented in the Cook Islands, Federated States

of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

## PacWastePlus Steering Committee confirms national waste management priorities

Pacific island countries, supported by PacWastePlus, held an intensive three-day programme steering committee meeting, acknowledging that waste management is a serious issue of concern, especially hazardous e-waste, asbestos and solid wastes, specifically recyclables.

The delegates confirmed specific national priorities for waste management project support and highlighted a number of challenges they face. These include strengthening legislation, enhancing awareness and education initiatives, and providing appropriate capacity building opportunities for the region, amongst others.

The link between waste management and climate change was discussed. This covered the risks, associated costs, and challenges imposed by climate change as well as the opportunities that good waste management offers in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

To provide support and strengthen regional cooperation, the PacWastePlus programme is assisting countries to share experiences and best practice in the sector. It is also linking countries with agencies and donors who can provide strategic assistance to develop and implement in-country activities.



Country delegates acknowledged that PacWastePlus provided a timely opportunity to leverage support from the European Union, and other regional

projects, as well as the SPREP-coordinated, Clean Pacific Roundtable. This will help to enhance national actions and implement innovative waste management solutions.

## A COVID-19 Medical Waste Alert developed for the Pacific islands

SPREP, through the PacWastePlus programme, was one of the first agencies of the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific to develop a COVID-19 Medical Waste Alert for the effective management of healthcare waste during the current pandemic.

As COVID-19 continued to spread, governments

were urged to treat waste management, including of medical, household, and other hazardous waste, as an urgent and essential public service in order to minimise possible secondary impacts upon health and the environment.

The easy-to-read practical guide for the Pacific has links to more resources. Some countries were advising

citizens with recent travel history to self-quarantine at home or in hotels. It is important to note that any waste from a facility housing a COVID-19 patient, or a person exposed to COVID-19, including decontamination materials, should be treated as medical waste.





## Engagement with countries using innovative resources

PacWastePlus has actively engaged with Pacific island Members to develop close to 100 publications now on the SPREP website.

These publications include project management tools to guide participating PacWastePlus countries to develop their in-country projects.

There is a basic guide on SMART Objectives to assist country focal points in developing in-country concepts for PacWastePlus projects and activities.

A Decision Support Tool was also created to support a high-level self-assessment to influence decision-making. This was based on questions about political, environmental, social, technological, legal and economic factors affecting the initiative in question.

The team also developed publications on building monitoring and evaluation plans, project logic and investigative questioning for PacWastePlus country projects. These can be applied as a resource tool during the development of other donor-funded country projects.

Specific publications were produced from the Assessment of Small-Scale Technology Suitable for Waste Management in the Pacific and Timor-Leste report. This provided details of small-scale waste management technology options suitable for use in remote communities to manage waste and the viability of each technology in the project countries.

The publications developed from this report included individual resources on waste technology management



options for organic material, plastic material and healthcare waste.

Clear and concise information is provided on the various Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) which aim to reduce the impacts of waste and chemicals.

In an effort to help Pacific islands prepare for disaster waste management, three

specific resources were published – Asbestos Contaminated Material – Guide for disaster debris removal; Managing Disaster Waste: A guide for communities (Factsheet); and National Disaster Waste Management Plans: Benefits of Having Disaster Waste Management Plans and Planning to Pacific Islands.

## Tropical Cyclone Harold Response

Following a request from the Vanuatu Government to provide support for clean-ups of disaster waste from Tropical Cyclone Harold, the PacWastePlus Programme, in consultation with the Vanuatu Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC) implemented a disaster recovery project in nine communities on the islands of Aore, Malo, Pentecost and Santo.

The project aided in the removal of approximately 239m<sup>3</sup> of disaster waste; facilitated community training on disaster waste management and commenced the development of Disaster Waste Management Plans for these communities.

The community training taught participants how to safely handle disaster waste; collect and collate waste management data, and how to best manage and protect the health and safety of waste collection volunteers. It was based on a manual introduced by SPREP through the Canadian Funding for Local Initiatives (CFLI) in collaboration with the JPRISM II Project and the University of Newcastle in November 2019.

The training sessions assisted communities to develop draft Disaster Waste Management Plans. These plans outline key activities for action by the community, Provincial Government and National Government. They were provided to the DEPC for refinement prior to implementation.



Trained volunteers mobilise for disaster waste collection in Vanuatu. Photo: SPREP/M.Taiki

The project was managed by staff from SPREP through PacWastePlus, an extension officer of the Vanuatu Department Environmental Protection and Conservation, and with support from the Luganville Municipal Council.

Recommendations from the Outcomes Report of this activity included coordination by relevant government departments to avoid duplication of efforts, as well as ensuring training materials be developed in the local dialect.

## A cleaner Pacific Ocean free from single-use plastics

The Australian Government initiated the Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP), funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through the Australian Aid Programme. This supports Pacific island commitments to fast-track policies to ban single-use plastics and polystyrene packaging.

POLP will be implemented from 2021–2026.

Pacific island leaders officially endorsed the Pacific Regional

Action Plan on Marine Litter at the 2018 Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in Nauru. The POLP, a six-year AUD 16 million project complements existing SPREP waste management projects to support this plan.

In 2020 the POLP inception workshop was held in Fiji bringing together representatives from Pacific island countries and territories, as well as experts on waste management, to inform them about the project design and planning arrangements. This



Cleaner Pacific. Photo: D.McFadzien

was also an opportunity for in-depth consultations with Pacific island countries.

The workshop outlined the intended approach for the

delivery of key national and regional activities under the project to address marine litter within the Pacific.

## About POLP

POLP was first introduced to Pacific representatives at the PacWastePlus inception meeting in May 2019, and also at the 29<sup>th</sup> SPREP Meeting in 2019.

It aims to achieve legislated or voluntary single-use plastic bans, levies and other instruments; increase consumer awareness and motivation to reducing single-use plastics use; having targeted sectors, companies and businesses to adopt single-use plastic reduction measures; identifying alternative, environmentally sustainable products and practices to support a reduction in single-use plastics use; and strengthening SPREP's leadership and coordination of marine plastic litter initiatives in the Pacific.

The project will be instrumental in assisting SPREP to develop a stronger picture of the gaps and opportunities that exist across the region. This will enable SPREP to advocate for further support, including at bilateral levels, with other donors beyond the Australian Government, to engage with each country and fund domestic efforts.

The Australian Government initiated the Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP), funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through the Australian Aid Programme.

## Marine Litter: Did You Know?

Each year, at least eight million tonnes of plastics enter the ocean. It is estimated that there are at least 51 trillion micro-plastic particles already in our ocean, with marine litter harming over 600 marine species.

Approximately 80% of that marine litter originates from land-based sources, which inputs from shorelines or through rivers and wastewater pipelines, with the most prevalent types being plastic materials.



## Review of Pilot Project Implementation Plan on Plastics and Waste Oil in Samoa

In 2020, Samoa Recycling and Waste Management Association and J-PRISM II, in collaboration with the Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and SPREP, developed a plan for the implementation of a plastics and waste oil pilot project.

The target waste is PET bottles, the plastic parts of home appliances such as air conditioners, and waste oil. The pilot project will be carried out from 2021 to 2022 to test the efficient collection, storage system and treatment method of these target wastes.





## Committing to Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific (SWAP)

2020 ended with the virtual inception meeting for the upcoming Committing to Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific (SWAP) project in December.

This meeting was well-attended with country and territory representatives identified as intervention areas for this project. Regional partners who are initiating waste actions in the Pacific

region also participated in the meeting.

Five countries and two French territories, and four ongoing and pipelined project teams expressed interest in the project.

Funded by Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and implemented by SPREP, SWAP is one of several projects underway across the Pacific islands region to help achieve

the regional goals set out in the Cleaner Pacific 2025: Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy.

'Cleaner Pacific' is the long-term strategy for integrated sustainable waste management and pollution prevention and control in the Pacific islands region until 2025.

Through a feasibility study, AFD and SPREP were able



A cleaner ocean for our Pacific – sharks and reef fish in Solomon Islands. Photo © Stuart Chape

to identify specific activities to carry out in countries and territories through SWAP. This led to the signing of the funding agreement for SWAP in February 2020 of Euro 3 million, with the opportunity to upgrade it to Euro 5 million.

## About SWAP

SWAP aims “to improve sanitation, environmental, social and economic conditions in Pacific Island Countries and Territories through proper waste management”.

The project goals are to develop good practices on waste management in the Pacific region. SWAP will help communities and local authorities to develop capacity and institutional mechanisms for the targeted waste streams

of used oil, disaster wastes and marine debris, and to promote sustainable financing mechanisms. This will be achieved through a regional training programme and the implementation of pilot projects.

SWAP also seeks to disseminate outcomes across the region through a Community of Practice.

The sustainable waste actions will be linked to the

conservation of biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, gender inclusiveness and the health and wellbeing of Pacific island communities.

The project is for four years with a Euro 3 million budget covering Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu; and two French Territories – French Polynesia and Wallis and Futuna. The project engaged a Project Support



Sorting waste collected during a clean up

Officer for the management and administration of the SWAP Project, as well as a French-speaking Technical Waste Project Coordinator to provide technical assistance and project coordination.

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## Supporting further capacity building to manage disaster waste in Vanuatu

A training workshop in Vanuatu to manage disaster wastes was held in March for representatives from different cities, municipalities and provinces in the country.

The workshop was organised and funded by J-PRISM II in partnership with SPREP.

The overall purpose was to develop contingency plans for the management of waste at the national and local government levels, when a natural disaster strikes. The plans provide guidance at the national and provincial levels during emergency and recovery operations, which will contribute to the quick

restoration of normal life of the affected communities.

A draft Disaster Waste Management contingency plan was submitted to the Department of Environment Protection and Conservation (DEPC) for approval.

J-PRISM II, in collaboration with SPREP, provided support to DEPC for the development of a Proposal to Establish an Environmental Cluster under the National Disaster Management Plan, with disaster waste as one of the sub-clusters, along with other environmental areas under SPREP.

## Assistance to enhance Vanuatu's capacity on Disaster Waste Management

In April 2020, Vanuatu was hit by Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Harold, causing widespread damage.

J-PRISM II, in collaboration with SPREP and PacWastePlus, provided technical support to Emergency Responses with the collection and analysis of disaster waste information and data.

To conduct this analysis, J-PRISM II with SPREP developed a pilot Mobile Data Collection System for Vanuatu, Fiji and Tonga for using the Kobo Toolbox Application. Virtual training will be conducted for Vanuatu with the potential involvement of Fiji, Samoa and Tonga in how to use this application.

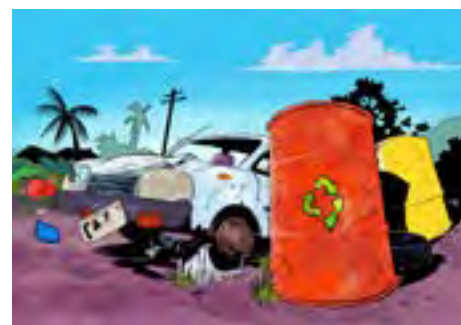




Photo: D.McFadzien

## Communications and Outreach: Amplifying the Pacific voice

The journey towards achieving Organisational Goal 1.2 of the SPREP Strategic Plan in partnership with SPREP Members was an unusual one in 2020. Influencing positive behaviour change through persuasive, purposeful and integrated communications took on a new twist in a COVID-19 climate where online communication became the norm. Upon fast adoption of digital processes within the Secretariat, the Communications and Outreach Unit adapted their work to suit while ensuring support continued for SPREP Members.

An increased awareness of the 2020–2021 Tropical Cyclone season to support a prepared and resilient Pacific community, was made possible through online training workshops for over 30 Pacific media people. This was followed by virtual attendance of the Seventh Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum, supported by a partnership between the ABC International Development, Pacific Media Assistance Scheme, and SPREP. The media programme was supported by the Australia Pacific Climate Partnership, an initiative of Australian Aid.

Building visibility of the Micronesia Challenge (MC), the Communications and Outreach Team implemented a three-month social media campaign in partnership with

the MC team to promote key outcomes of MC2020, leading into MC2030. This increased knowledge of the MC with strong numbers visiting the social media posts as they were rolled out.

The “Transition to a post-pandemic Pacific” webinar series from SPREP began in May, as the Secretariat mobilised swiftly to generate discussions on the important role of a sustainable environment when planning beyond COVID-19. Featuring voices of Pacific island Members and partners, SPREP transitioned to the virtual stage with ease as each of the four SPREP programmes led a webinar topic, with a special webinar on a healthy ocean. The highly successful webinar series will be repeated in 2021.

Working in partnership with the Cook Islands, SPREP supported the communications component of the Cook Islands National Sustainable Development Agenda 2020+ (CINSDA2020+). This included the launch of the national debate series – Korero Mai, a Rarotonga-wide consultation event open to the public – as well as the launch of the consultation phase for the CINSDA2020+ which will be completed in 2021.

The Communications and Outreach Unit supported SPREP flagship conferences that had adapted to COVID-19 related circumstances through virtual platforms. The Third Pacific Ocean and Pacific Climate Change Conference conducted in partnership with Te Herenga Waka the University of Victoria, Wellington, as well as the 10<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, saw the development of communication strategies to build awareness of the events, and drive engagement and visibility of the conference outcomes.







Striving for a resilient Pacific environment. Photo: D.McFadzien

## Finance and Administration: Fiscally sound and credible SPREP

Directly in support of Organisational Goal 3, SPREP's finance and administration section is responsible for managing funds efficiently and transparently through effective financial, risk management and audit systems, integrated with programme management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems. It looks after a wide variety of essential services ranging from financial reporting, procurement, funds management, travel, property and facilities maintenance and the overall financial management of the organisation. The goal is for SPREP to have a reliable and sustainable funding base to achieve environmental outcomes for the benefit of the Pacific islands region and that it manages its programmes and operations to stay within its agreed budget.

During 2020, the Secretariat recorded USD 4.35 million dollars in expenditure with collections in income totalling USD 4.67 million. After factoring in net finance income and foreign exchange exposure, the results noted was an overall net surplus for the period of USD 389,376 compared to a net deficit of USD 81,977 in 2019. This is a notable achievement for the Secretariat given the huge challenges over cashflows during the year as a result of COVID-19 which impacted significantly on programme implementation and thus

overall income for SPREP than budgeted.

To address the situation, the immediate measures put in place by the Secretariat in response to COVID-19, included regular review and adjustments of both project implementation plans and our cash flow particularly in terms of strict controls on core costs which proved to be effective and resulted in the overall positive results, but are temporary and thus unlikely to be sufficient to see the organisation through the crisis if continuing to persist in the long term.



Finance and Administration staff at work.

In terms of total reserves, the surplus in performance increased the balance to USD 447,139 compared to a balance of USD 57,763 in 2019.

The challenge remains for the Secretariat to ensure collective effort by Members and Executive Management to continue to rebuild total reserves. Thus, it is crucial to generate sufficient funds to maintain a stable level of income whilst also controlling costs to avoid deficit situations and thus strengthen and maintain the overall financial sustainability of SPREP in

the long term. Based on a continuing increasing portfolio for SPREP which is now USD 30 million for 2021 compared to USD 19 million five years ago, it further reaffirms the need to build a very strong and financially sustainable position for the Secretariat in support of its regional and organisational goals.

This will help to achieve its overall vision in the long term for a resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.



Human Resources: Valuing our people.

## Human Resources: Valuing our people

The work of Human Resources in collaboration with all SPREP staff is guided by Organisational Goal 5 of the SPREP Strategic Plan on “access to a pool of people with the attitudes, knowledge and skills to enable it to deliver on its shared regional vision.” 2020 has been a challenging year that brought so much uncertainty to SPREP staff and their families due to the impact of COVID-19 with ongoing States of Emergency in place and border closures. These unprecedented times called for us to adapt to new ways of working and to be more creative and innovative in our approaches to all aspects of our work.

The Secretariat’s inaugural People Strategy was developed and endorsed by the Second Executive Board Meeting in 2020. Developed through a highly consultative process with all staff and the Senior Leadership Team, the purpose of the strategy was: To be the premier employer in the Pacific Region; Dedicated to providing an inclusive and empowering team culture, that attracts

world leading talent, who are encouraged to grow and thrive; and Sharing our expertise, knowledge and passion to make positive change, for the benefit of our Pacific communities.

Five key outcomes were identified to achieving this objective: Culture is Inclusive and Resilient; Health, Safety and Wellbeing is embedded across all locations; A Robust

Workforce Planning is Delivered; Increased Mastery in Leadership Capability; and Enhanced People Policies, Practices and Ways of Working. Planning for implementation of the strategy is in progress.

A new Medical Insurance scheme for the Secretariat was adopted in 2020. This is the first time that medical insurance cover for staff has been outsourced to a global insurance provider with the objective of improving medical health care services at all the different office locations. This supports the Secretariat’s commitment to staff health, safety and wellbeing as a key outcome of its People Strategy.

The recruitment of the Deputy Director General, Governance and Operations was completed

in 2020. This is a key Executive and Senior Leadership position that works closely with the Director General in the leadership and management of the Secretariat. Recruitment was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. All new and vacant positions were on hold for most of the year except for core positions required for key support services. Others were cancelled or delayed due to changing priorities by partners and donors.

Annual Staff Reviews were completed successfully with staff performance consistently maintained at over 96% at the Fully Effective and Exceeds levels. Four per cent rated at On Track, reflecting mainly those who were new in their roles.

## Information Communications and Technology: Connecting across the Pacific

Goal 1.1 of SPREP to improve quality and interoperability of information and communications technology infrastructure in the region directed the work of the Information Communications and Technology (ICT) team at SPREP. Working to ensure that reliable, secure and effective systems are available to the organisation in order to effectively deliver services to our Members and stakeholders became more important, as 2020 saw a shift to virtual working as COVID-19 led to closed borders, self-isolation and lockdowns.

Building resilience through digital technology and technological investments was a main driver for the ICT Team which kept SPREP functional and engaged with Members, especially in the context of COVID-19. The pandemic

accelerated the need to adopt digital technologies to enable business continuity and support operations remotely, with SPREP services delivered online. New technologies and standards were adopted with capacity building for staff

on their use. For example, critical collaboration and productivity services were migrated to cloud servers such as email services to Office 365 to improve resiliency, and improved accessibility for staff on campus and remotely. There was an increased shift to web-based applications and use of online platforms to deliver ICT services to SPREP Members.

In partnering with TrendMicro and Microsoft, measures were undertaken in 2020 to safeguard SPREP through improved security as the Secretariat moved to conduct

its business and increase its presence online. State of the art enterprise level security for threat detection and protection technologies were implemented in 2020 at the SPREP Campus in Apia, Samoa as well as across the Regional Offices of SPREP. Improvements to end point protection, network border control and systems security with multifactor authentication were introduced to strengthen the organisation’s resilience against all emerging threats including COVID-like developments and cyberthreats.





2020 was a year of several 'firsts' for the Knowledge Management Team.

Photo: D.McFadzien

## Knowledge Management: Enhancing informed decision making

SPREP's Knowledge Management holds a unique collection of publications, periodicals, scientific and technical reports prepared by SPREP, our Members, stakeholders and partners. Goal 1.1 is to share and use knowledge through the development and maintenance of reliable systems and processes for the effective collection, storage and access to critical information. This vast assembly of environmental information is available to SPREP staff, Member countries and territories, and members of the public through the virtual library catalogue or by visiting the campus at Vailima. 2020 was a year of several 'firsts' for the Knowledge Management Team.

Embarking on a new virtual experience, the Knowledge Management team successfully organised and delivered a virtual exhibition of SPREP's knowledge products and resources for the 10<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas. The virtual exhibition was a rewarding experience

and the first of similar activities to come.

SPREP's visibility was profiled and raised at the Forty-Sixth International Association Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers (IAMSLIC). A paper was presented on how a small, special library remained

relevant in unprecedented times, the very first time for SPREP to be heard at this event. Although the SPREP physical library was closed to the public throughout 2020 due to COVID-19, it remained open to SPREP staff. Our online services continued to the public, our members and to SPREP outposted staff. As the work mode changed rapidly to digital transfer and exchange of information, so did the work processes of the SPREP Knowledge Management team.

The SPREP staff seminar series was expanded to include a virtual seminar with the National Geographic Society in Washington DC, Brisbane Australia, and California USA. The virtual seminar introduced

the Coral Reef Atlas, a new tool in coral reef management which enabled SPREP Members and staff to learn more about the vision behind the atlas and the technology used to create it.

As part of continuing improvements to the SPREP Library, a new digitisation scanning machine was procured to digitise the bulk of SPREP's legacy collection to meet the demanding need for digital content. The digitisation scanning machine was funded by the Inform Project, the four-year Global Environment Facility-funded project, implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme and executed by SPREP.



Tuvalu. Photo: D.McFadzien

2020 saw a shift to virtual working as COVID-19 led to closed borders, self-isolation and lockdowns.





In 2020 synergies were sought through open dialogues, binary insights and addressing challenges faced when institutionalising monitoring and evaluation processes.

## Monitoring and Evaluation: A results-focused Pacific environment

Goal 2.3 to “Strengthen SPREP’s learning and outcomes reporting framework, integrating organisational and environmental performance” helped steer the Monitoring and Evaluation (M and E) work of the Secretariat. M and E is instrumental in leading SPREP towards a results-focused programme and department performance measures for members. In 2020 synergies were sought through open dialogues, binary insights and addressing challenges faced when institutionalising monitoring and evaluation processes.

Key institutional Monitoring and Evaluation instruments were adopted and operationalised to track performance annually against the strategic priorities in the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017–2026. These instruments are the SPREP Results Framework 2017–2026; Performance Implementation Plan (PIP) 2020–2021; Report on Achievements Towards First PIP 2018–2019 Outcomes; and Annual Workplan and Budget 2020–2021. Internal monitoring and evaluation processes

were enhanced with rigorous engagement of staff across programmes and departments.

In institutionalising the Results Framework, a four-tier process was used to produce a simplified draft of the Results Framework containing the indicators and targets for each year until 2026. The first step in the process was refining and recalibrating previous generic indicators to a SMART-based outcome indicator across organisational goals (programmes) and

organisational goals (departments). The second step was inputting the agreed indicators into a log frame and results-chain, which led to the final Results Framework. The third step focused on the partitioning of the indicators in the Results Framework into a two-year Performance Implementation Plan, with approved activities that correspond to the outcome budgeting. The final step was the validation meetings of the outcomes achieved, or progress towards PIP outcomes, including budgets and pipeline projects.

The SPREP PIP indicators are being used to report on the achievement of key performance assessments for the SPREP DFAT Agreement 2-18-2021. This alignment provides more streamlined reporting and recognises the

importance of establishing SMART indicators.

The monitoring and evaluation of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (2017–2030): An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (FRDP) was completed in partnership with members of the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific. Review missions to assess in-country structures to support the M and E FRDP functions in Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga and Vanuatu were undertaken in partnership with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Pacific Community and the University of the South Pacific. This collaboration recognises the impact of the work of SPREP within its Member countries and across the region.

Photo: D.McFadzien

Kioia Island, Fiji © Stuart Chape







The sub-regional offices work closely with Members and our team at SPREP.



Choiseul mangroves, Solomon Islands © Stuart Chape

## Sub-Regional Offices of SPREP: Support across our Pacific

SPREP has sub-regional offices in Fiji, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. These offices support national and regional interventions including projects from PacWaste Plus, Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC), Climate Information Services for Resilient Development in Vanuatu project (Van-KIRAP), and PRISMSS, a coordinating mechanism designed to facilitate the scaling up of operational management of invasive species in the Pacific. Sub-regional offices have enabled SPREP to better communicate and coordinate with Members on projects being delivered in-country and implemented through SPREP.

The Solomon Islands Government and SPREP signed a host country agreement in 2014, which enabled the establishment of a SPREP office. The Solomon Islands office initially accommodated the SPREP ecosystem-based adaptation officer, followed by the PEBACC project. Managed by one officer, the in-country presence enabled SPREP to liaise more effectively with the Solomon Islands Government and other stakeholders to enhance visibility and the work of SPREP as the leading regional agency for environment, climate

change and natural resources management.

The impacts of COVID-19 in 2020 highlighted the importance of sub-regional offices and outposted staff to continue in-country work to ensure SPREP remained accessible and connected with Members. The health and travel restrictions required the Secretariat to adapt to a new mode of working, where SPREP convened its first virtual governance meeting in September 2020. The Second SPREP Executive Board Meeting was led by

Solomon Islands as Chair. The meeting convened with the technical and logistical support of the Solomon Islands SPREP office. The in-country presence of SPREP ensured that the preparatory work, logistical arrangements and communications between the Chair and the Secretariat were immediate and continuously engaged with members in the high-level discussions, throughout the three-day meeting.

In the Vanuatu SPREP office, complementing their project work for PacWaste Plus, PEBACC and Van-KIRAP staff attended a special screening

of David Attenborough's Film 'A Life on Our Planet' to mark the occasion of the 2020 Climate Ambition Summit co-hosted by the United Nations, United Kingdom and France. The event was co-hosted by the British High Commissioner, H.E. Mrs Karen Bell, and Ambassador of the Republic of France, H.E. M. Pierre Fournier, at the Vanuatu National Convention Centre. Supporting global initiatives at the national level remains important to SPREP particularly in light of the Pacific voyage to COP26 which, while postponed in 2020 to 2021, is a key priority for SPREP and the Pacific.

Gold Ridge Mine, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands.



Photo: D.McFadzien

## Annual Statement on Internal Control for the Financial Year 2020

### Scope of responsibility

As the Director General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP); I am accountable for maintaining an effective and efficient system of internal control as specified in Regulation 25 of the SPREP Financial Regulations. I also have responsibility for ensuring that funds are safeguarded and properly accounted for, and that these are used economically, efficiently, and effectively.

### Purpose of the system of internal control

Internal control is designed to reduce and manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve the Organisation's aims, objectives, and related policies. Therefore, it can provide reasonable but not absolute assurance of effectiveness. It is based on an ongoing process designed to identify the principal risks, evaluate the nature and extent of those risks, and manage them efficiently and effectively.

### The key elements of the internal control environment include:

**SPREP has an Internal Control Framework Guideline** – that is based on the COSO model of internal control<sup>1</sup> which is the best-known basis for understanding an Internal Control Framework (ICF) within an organisation. It sets out five inter-related components of internal control and 17 principles that are required to have an integrated and effective internal control system. For each of these components and principles, the Guideline elaborates on the significant controls that are in place for SPREP.

**Ensuring compliance with established policies and procedures** – SPREP is undertaking a comprehensive review of all its policies, procedures, and manuals to ensure its consistency, relevance, and effectiveness.

**Organisational Values and Code of Conduct** – The principles which must be respected by all staff are stated explicitly in the SPREP's Organisational Values and Code of Conduct that is widely displayed throughout the SPREP campus. This is supplemented by a Fraud Prevention and Whistle-blower Protection Manual.

**Policy and provisions in the SPREP Procurement Manual** – SPREP has a stringent procurement and vetting process in place to promote compliance with manual and best practices to ensure that member funds are properly safeguarded and are used economically, efficiently, and effectively and in accordance with the authority which governs their use.

**Financial Management** – The Director for Finance and Administration is responsible for the accounting and has staff for record keeping, financial reporting, procurement, and project accounting.

There is adequate segregation of critical duties through Financial Delegation which ensures that commitments are made by authorized staff. SPREP staff use an enterprise software solution called Tech One which has been in operation since 2014. It produces data for the financial statements that are prepared in accordance with International Financial reporting Standards (IFRS) and International Standards on Auditing (ISA). The system reflects budget information; facilitates the procurement process and bank reconciliations.

**Risk Management** – The SPREP revised Risk Management manual was approved in December 2016 includes relevant terms of reference that is chaired by the Deputy Director General and supported by the Risk Committee. SPREP's approach to risk management is an integral and systematic process that seeks to identify mitigate, monitor, and communicate top prioritised risks for the Organisation.

<sup>1</sup> Committee of Sponsoring Organisations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) Internal Control – Integrated Framework, May 2013



## Annual Statement on Internal Control for the Financial Year 2020 *(cont.)*

### Review of the Effectiveness of Internal Control

As the Director General, I have the responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. My review is informed amongst others by the following sources.

**Senior Leadership Team meetings** – The Secretariat leadership teams meets monthly and as and when the need arises. The objective of this meeting is to make decisions, bring up and solve issues, align cross-functionally, and gain insights into every programme and department. 2020 was a challenging year for Secretariat, given the impacts of COVID-19 on project delivery and its revenue base. The Secretariat undertook stringent financial measures to monitor income and expenditure monthly, engaged with members, metropolitan partners, donors, focal points, and other crop agencies for support, mitigate in response to the impacts of COVID-19.

**Audit Committee** – The Audit Committee has five independent experts and is complemented by the Troika members consisting of the past, current and future Chair of the SPREP Meeting. The Audit Committee meets three to four times in a year and advises the Director General on the effectiveness of: the integrity of the Secretariat's financial operations and statements; whether operations are conducted within an adequate internal control framework; whether there is compliance with legal and regulatory requirements; the effectiveness of the performance of the external and internal audit functions; whether corporate and project risks, including procurement, are adequately considered and managed; and whether there is an effective fraud prevention system.

**Internal Audit function** – An Independent Internal Audit function has been in place since 2012. The Internal Auditor is functionally responsible to the Audit Committee and reports to the Director General on operational matters.

**External Audit** – the external auditor provides an annual certification of the financial statements that are in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and the International Standards on Auditing (ISA) which guarantees a high degree of transparency. In 2020, an unqualified or clean audit opinion was issued with no major control deficiencies noted by the independent external auditor KPMG.

Based on these sources, I consider that the internal controls listed above and further elaborated upon in the SPREP Internal Control Framework are adequate for SPREP to carry out its core functions, manage its risk and operate effectively. Improvements needed and identified in this framework are being addressed, as SPREP continues to serve its Members under the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017–2026.



Kosi Latu  
Director General

Apia, Samoa

Date: 28 June 2021

## Audit Committee Statement on Internal Control for the Financial Year 2020

### Introduction

The Audit Committee submits this **Statement of Internal Control for the Financial Year 2020** in compliance with SPREPS's Governance Policy and resolutions of SPREP meetings.

The Audit Committee operates according to SPREP's Governance Policy that is elaborated upon in the Audit Committee Charter. Together both documents give adequate and clear guidance as mandate for the work of the Audit Committee.

### Composition of the 2020 Audit Committee

For the financial year 2020 the Audit Committee consisted of the following members:

<b>Chairman</b>	Mr. Tupuola Oloialii Koki Tuala, Partner, Koki Tuala Chartered Accountant (KTCA) (Re- appointed for second term in November 2019)
<b>Member</b>	Mr. Barry Patterson, Deputy High Commissioner, Australian High Commissions (appointed in November 2019)
<b>Member</b>	Mr. Taimalie Kele Lui, Manager Human Resources, Tokelau Office, Apia (appointed in March 2019)
<b>Member</b>	Ms. Rosalini Moli, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Finance, Samoa (appointed in March 2019)
<b>Member</b>	Ms. Ella Risati, Second Secretary, New Zealand High Commission (appointed in November 2019)

### Audit Committee Meetings in 2020

The Audit Committee is required to meet at least three times per financial year and in 2020 the Audit Committee met in March, August, and December 2020.

### Effectiveness of Internal Control

The Audit Committee has reviewed the statement signed by Kosi Latu, the Director General of SPREP. The information is consistent with the documents and reports reviewed and the presentations made to the Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee wishes to underline the importance of the following matters:

1. The Secretariat recorded a net surplus of US\$389,376 for the financial year ended 31 December 2020 in contrast to a deficit of US\$81,977 recorded for the financial year ended 31 December 2019. This was mainly attributed to increased allocation of core funding support from Australia and New Zealand.
2. As of 31 December 2020, the outstanding membership contributions amounted to US\$369,089. The Committee would like to thank members for their timely contribution and support despite the COVID-19 impacts and for the Secretariat to continue following up and make arrangements with those members facing difficulties in clearing their dues.
3. The Committee would also like to urge all members for their humble consideration of the additional member voluntary contributions to the core to ensure the continued financial sustainability and strengthening of the SPREP operations in support of our members.



4. The Project Management fees which is a major revenue stream for Secretariat declined by 19% or US\$248,122 from US\$1,281,790 in 2019 to US\$1,033,668 in 2020. This was mainly attributed to the impact of COVID 19 which drastically restricted project implementation in 2020.
5. The Committee would like to acknowledge the measures put in place by the Secretariat to manage the impact of COVID-19, including monthly monitoring of income and expenditure, engagement with donor to address alternative arrangements for project delivery agreed changes to workplans delivery through virtual means, and working with in country partners and national focal points.
6. The current ratio is 1:1 which is relatively breakeven, or just sufficient to cover our immediate liabilities. The equity or reserves has strengthened by US\$389,376 from US\$57,763 in 2019 to US\$447,139 in 2020. This was attributed to net surplus recorded for the year ended 31 December 2020.
7. The Committee is of the view due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19 the reserve position though improved when compared to 2019 is still at a critical level. The Secretariat seeks to maintain vigilance and continue managing its expenditure and risk exposure arising from COVID-19, in relation to project implementation and its revenue stream.
8. The Secretariat has developed the Project Management Information System (PMIS) to further enhance project monitoring and reporting. The Committee earlier raised concerns regarding the PMIS low utilisation. The Secretariat is currently undertaking the full review of the PMIS to suit its current needs, integrate and leverage the use of PMIS.
9. The Secretariat with effect from 1 December 2020 has outsourced its medical insurance coverage for staffs and dependents to AWP Health & Life SA (Trading name Allianz Care). The contract is valid until 30 November 2022 with budget of up to US\$350,000 per year based on the current level of staff.
10. The Committee noted the need to strengthen the Internal Audit Function and leverage the use of technology to automate repetitive, manual tasks and increase their audit coverage.
11. The Audit Committee Charter was reviewed, benchmarked, and aligned to the Institute of Internal Auditors standards and requirements. The updated Charter was approved in principle in the Audit Committee meeting of March 2021 and final approval in the August meeting. Notable changes include: the number of audit committee meetings which have increased from three to four per year to allow greater support and scrutiny of the Secretariat's operations and performance; flexibility for membership attendance in terms of use of virtual platforms and alternate member representation ; allowing provision for the audit committee to seek independent technical and legal advice in the event of a conflict of interest; the appointment of the audit committee members to be made by the Troika in consultation with the Director General; and appointment term of the audit committee members reduced from four to three years term and renewable only once.
12. The Committee noted the number of policies due for review. The Committee is of the view that policies and procedures need to be relevant to address the current needs of SPREP; and updated progress be continually monitored at each Audit Committee meeting.
13. The Committee encourages the continuation of regular consultations with the management team during the year, consultations with Director of Finance and Administration during the Committee meetings; and annual consultation with the external auditor all have proven useful and valuable in improving dialogue, forming effective decisions, and expediting practical solutions to challenges faced by SPREP especially moving forward with numerous risks and uncertainties caused by the impact of COVID-19.

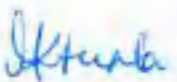
## Financial Statements for 2020

The Audit Committee is satisfied with the content and quality of the internal quarterly statements and the project statements prepared and issued by the Finance and Administration Team relating to the financial year 2020.

The Audit Committee has discussed the 2020 audited financial statements and the relevant accounting policies with the Director General, Director Finance and Administration and the External Auditors, KPMG. It also reviewed the report of the external auditor on the financial statements and the related management letter.

On this basis the Audit Committee concludes that the 2020 audited financial statements and the unqualified audit opinion by the external auditor be accepted by the SPREP Members.

This Statement of Internal Control for the Financial Year 2020 is submitted for the consideration and approval by the SPREP Members.



**Tupuola Oloialii Koki Tuala**  
Chairman of the Audit Committee

Apia, Samoa

Date: 30 June 2021

## Executive Management Report for the Financial Year 2020

The Executive Management present the annual report together with the financial statements of the Secretariat for the year ended 31 December 2020 and independent auditors' report as set out on the following pages thereon in accordance with the Secretariat's Financial Regulations.

### Executive Management

The Executive Management in office as at the date of this report are:

<b>Leota Kosi Latu</b>	<i>Director General</i>
<b>Roger Cornforth</b>	<i>Deputy Director General</i>
<b>Tagaloa Cooper</b>	<i>Director, Climate Change Resilience</i>
<b>Stuart Chape</b>	<i>Director, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management</i>
<b>Easter Chu Shing</b>	<i>Director, Environmental Monitoring and Governance</i>
<b>Clark Peteru</b>	<i>Legal Adviser</i>
<b>Simeamativa Vaai</b>	<i>Director, Human Resource</i>
<b>Petra Chan Tung</b>	<i>Director, Finance and Administration</i>

### Principal Activity

The principal activity of SPREP is to promote co-operation in the Pacific region and to provide assistance in order to protect and improve its environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations.

### Operating Results

We are pleased to present the following operating results of the Secretariat for the financial year as at 31 December 2020:

- During the year the Secretariat expended USD 4.4 million dollars compared to expenditure of USD 4.2 million in 2019.
- The net surplus for the period was USD 389,376, compared to the net deficit of USD 81,977 in 2019.
- Foreign exchange exposure continues to be controlled and minimized and there was a foreign exchange gain of USD 92,226 in 2020 compared to a foreign exchange loss of USD 46,144 in 2019.
- Management recognizes that there is still a need to maintain sustainability of funding with a view to rebuilding reserve funds and avoiding any further deficient positions in the future to ensure a strong financial position for the Secretariat moving forward.
- The challenge remains for the Secretariat to ensure a collective effort by Members and Executive Management to rebuild the total reserves. Hence, the Secretariat must focus on areas of generating sufficient funds from both Member Countries and Donors to resolve this issue as well as control costs, and thus strengthen the overall financial position and sustainability of SPREP in the long term.



## Responsibility for Financial Reporting and State of Affairs

The accompanying financial statements are the responsibility of management. The financial statements have been prepared according to International Financial Reporting Standards and include amounts based on management's best estimates and judgments.

Management has established and had been maintaining accounting and internal control systems which include clearly stated policies and procedures. These systems are designed to provide reasonable assurance that our financial records are reliable and form a proper basis for the timely and accurate preparation of financial statements, and that our assets are properly safeguarded.

SPREP Members oversee management's responsibilities for financial reporting. The financial statements have been reviewed and approved by the SPREP Members on recommendation from management.

Our independent auditors KPMG, Fiji, having been appointed by the SPREP Members, have audited our financial statements. The accompanying independent auditors' report outlines the scope of their examination and their opinion.

## In our opinion

- a. The accompanying statement of comprehensive income is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the results of the Secretariat for the year ended 31 December 2020;
- b. The accompanying statement of financial position is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of the Secretariat's affairs as at 31 December 2020;
- c. The accompanying statement of movement in reserves is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the movement of funds and reserves of the Secretariat for the year ended 31 December 2020; and
- d. The accompanying statement of cash flows is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the cash flows for the Secretariat for the year ended 31 December 2020.

We are not aware of any circumstance which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We authorize the attached financial statements for issue on behalf of the Executive Management of the Secretariat.



**Kosi Latu**  
Director General  
26 March 2021



**Easter Chu Shing**  
Deputy Director General  
26 March 2021

## AUDITOR'S REPORT



### Independent Auditors' Report on the Summary Financial Statements to the Members of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

#### Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at 31 December 2020, the summary statements of core fund comprehensive income, changes in funds and reserves and cash flows for the year then ended, are derived from the audited financial statements of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme ("the Secretariat") for the year ended 31 December 2020.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements of the Secretariat which were prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

#### Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures, including accounting policies, required by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). Reading the summary financial statements and our report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements and our report thereon. The summary financial statements and the audited financial statements do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to that date of our report on the audited financial statements.

#### The Audited Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

#### Members and Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Members and Management are responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements based on the audited financial statements which were prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

#### Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 810 (Revised), "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements."

**KPMG**  
Chartered Accountants

Suva, Fiji  
3 May, 2021



## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2020

### Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Core Fund Statement of Comprehensive Income For the year ended 31 December 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
<b>Income</b>		
Member contributions	1,026,444	1,270,103
Programme management charges	1,033,668	1,281,790
Other donor fund income	2,133,269	1,249,147
Amortisation of deferred income - Property and Equipment	239,474	134,562
Other income	236,794	210,606
<b>Total income</b>	<b>4,669,649</b>	<b>4,146,208</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Advertisements	10,240	19,525
Consultancies	22,087	9,650
Depreciation and amortisation expense	317,262	308,635
Electricity & Water	80,916	72,491
Freight and Postal Expenses	925	2,478
Insurance	134,331	80,707
Licences & Registration	16,383	19,964
Printing, Stationery and Office Supplies	82,772	67,560
Professional Services	96,689	124,154
Program Support Costs	57,484	89,985
Repairs & Maintenance	46,416	69,776
Salaries and wages	2,831,046	2,476,435
Superannuation expense	240,639	185,733
Other employee expenses	190,551	126,094
SPREP Meeting	14,821	107,611
Telephone and Internet	63,076	47,757
Travel	10,292	222,055
Workshops & Trainings	10,803	95,689
Other Expenses	123,652	49,289
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>4,350,385</b>	<b>4,175,588</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) before net finance income and foreign exchange</b>	<b>319,264</b>	<b>(29,380)</b>
Net finance income	(22,114)	(6,453)
Foreign exchange loss	92,226	(46,144)
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>389,376</b>	<b>(81,977)</b>

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2020

### Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Statement of Financial Position As at 31 December 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Property and Equipment	10,367,880	10,582,071
Right of Use Asset	52,799	73,511
	<u>10,420,679</u>	<u>10,655,582</u>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	23,952,324	14,767,207
Receivables and prepayments	86,417	495,273
	<u>24,038,741</u>	<u>15,262,480</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>34,459,420</u>	<u>25,918,062</u>
<b>RESERVES AND LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Reserves</b>		
Core Funds	447,139	57,763
<b>Total reserves</b>	<u>447,139</u>	<u>57,763</u>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>		
Employee benefits	375,640	405,050
Deferred income - Property and Equipment	9,920,008	10,159,482
Lease liability	23,341	45,301
<b>Total noncurrent liabilities</b>	<u>10,318,989</u>	<u>10,609,833</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Programme/Donor funds	19,270,660	11,973,632
Payables and accruals	1,683,445	908,834
Employee entitlements	1,011,690	714,229
Deferred income - Property and Equipment	239,474	239,474
Income received in advance	1,455,833	1,383,884
Lease liability	32,190	30,413
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<u>23,693,291</u>	<u>15,250,466</u>
<b>TOTAL RESERVES AND LIABILITIES</b>	<u>34,459,420</u>	<u>25,918,062</u>



## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2020

### Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Statement of Changes in Funds and Reserves For the year ended 31 December 2020

	Core Fund \$	Total \$
<b>Balance at 1st January 2019</b>	<b>139,740</b>	<b>139,740</b>
Net Deficit for the year	(81,977)	(81,977)
<b>Balance at 31st December 2019</b>	<b>57,763</b>	<b>57,763</b>
 <b>Balance at 1st January 2020</b>	 57,763	 57,763
Net Surplus for the year	389,376	389,376
<b>Balance at 31 December 2020</b>	<b>447,139</b>	<b>447,139</b>

### Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Statement of Cash Flows For the year ended 31 December 2020

	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Member contributions	1,192,974	998,028
Interest received	29,654	1,543
Non programme donor funds received	2,133,269	1,249,147
Other receipts	466,659	86,979
Personnel costs - Corporate Services	(2,797,377)	(2,550,964)
Corporate Services costs	(25,508)	(389,947)
Lease payments	(40,978)	(40,978)
Programme Income/(Expenditure)	8,235,921	7,014,833
<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>	<b>9,194,614</b>	<b>6,368,641</b>
 <b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Purchase of property and equipment	(65,377)	(40,655)
<b>Net cash flows for investing activities</b>	<b>(65,377)</b>	<b>(40,655)</b>
 Net change in cash held	9,129,237	6,327,986
Cash at beginning of the year	14,808,441	8,526,599
Effects of foreign exchange	92,226	(46,144)
<b>Cash balance at the end of the year</b>	<b>24,029,904</b>	<b>14,808,441</b>

# Publications 2020

TITLE	ISBN / ISSN / LINK	PAGES	TITLE	ISBN / ISSN / LINK	PAGES
<b>TECHNICAL REPORTS</b>			<b>TECHNICAL REPORTS cont.</b>		
A guide for developing an investigative questioning process	<a href="https://bit.ly/2Stn4Ys">https://bit.ly/2Stn4Ys</a> 978-982-04-0848-7 (e-copy)	22 p.	Moana taka partnership: a guide for Pacific Island countries & territories	<a href="https://bit.ly/3gWEgE2">https://bit.ly/3gWEgE2</a> 978-982-04-0900-2 (ecopy)	19 p.
Asbestos contaminated materials guide for disaster debris removal	<a href="https://bit.ly/3zTXZeQ">https://bit.ly/3zTXZeQ</a> 978-982-04-0820-3 (print) 978-982-04-0819-7 (ecopy)	30 p.	Nauru training workshop on marine spatial planning – GEF-PAS Integrated Island Biodiversity (IIB) project	<a href="https://bit.ly/3A8w5fw">https://bit.ly/3A8w5fw</a> 978-982-04-0684-1 (print) 978-982-04-0685-8 (ecopy)	44 p.
Asbestos contaminated materials: Guide for disaster debris removal	<a href="https://bit.ly/2U4u6YT">https://bit.ly/2U4u6YT</a> 978-982-04-0820-3 (print) 978-982-04-0819-7 (ecopy)	18 p.	Our Cook Islands State of Environment: Summary	<a href="https://bit.ly/3jl6z0f">https://bit.ly/3jl6z0f</a>	2 p.
Assessing the risk of tilapia from proposed aquaculture ponds establishing and becoming invasive in coastal marine ecosystems at Port Resolution (Tanna Island), Vanuatu	<a href="https://bit.ly/3A3lhhgz">https://bit.ly/3A3lhhgz</a>	32 p.	PacPlan: Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan 2019	<a href="https://bit.ly/3qC0rCz">https://bit.ly/3qC0rCz</a> 978-982-04-0915-6 (print) 978-982-04-0916-3 (ecopy)	26 p.
Assessment of the Coconut Crab ( <i>Birgus latro</i> ) Cook Islands Integrated Island Biodiversity Technical Series	<a href="https://bit.ly/2U2hpOi">https://bit.ly/2U2hpOi</a> 978-982-04-0672-8 (print) 978-982-04-0673-5 (ecopy)	30 p.	Pacific islands climate change insurance facility (PICCIF)	<a href="https://bit.ly/3vZ2gKT">https://bit.ly/3vZ2gKT</a> 978-982-04-0907-1 (print) 978-982-04-0908-8 (ecopy)	80 p.
Bird surveys of Late and Fonualei Islands – Vava'u, Kingdom of Tonga	<a href="https://bit.ly/3x3QJLD">https://bit.ly/3x3QJLD</a> 978-982-04-0686-5 (print) 978-982-04-0687-2 (ecopy)	24 p.	Participatory 3-Dimensional Modelling – Vaka Puaikura, Rarotonga Cook Islands	<a href="https://bit.ly/3jlbpDW">https://bit.ly/3jlbpDW</a> 978-982-04-0678-0 (print) 978-982-04-0679-7 (ecopy)	31 p.
Biodiversity in schools: report on training of Trainers Workshop – Integrating Biodiversity into School Programs Tuvalu	<a href="https://bit.ly/3xehfSR">https://bit.ly/3xehfSR</a> 978-982-04-0694-0 (print) 978-982-04-0695-7 (ecopy)	62 p.	Protect our islands with biosecurity	<a href="https://bit.ly/2SBbZcQ">https://bit.ly/2SBbZcQ</a> 978-982-04-0826-5 (print) 978-982-04-0825-8 (ecopy)	30 p.
Build resilient ecosystems and communities by managing invasive species in high-priority sites	<a href="https://bit.ly/3hfh031">https://bit.ly/3hfh031</a> 978-982-04-0814-2 (print) 978-982-04-0813-5 (ecopy)	25 p.	Report on a visit to Niuafo'ou Island, Kingdom of Tonga – Polynesian Megapode Megapodius pritchardii, monitoring and conservation of Malau on Niuafo'ou Island	<a href="https://bit.ly/3w2Uj7v">https://bit.ly/3w2Uj7v</a> 978-982-04-0692-6 (print) 978-982-03-0692-3 (ecopy)	38 p.
Catchment management and restoration plan – for Rarotonga Cloud Forest Ecosystems Cook Islands	<a href="https://bit.ly/3Aflboe">https://bit.ly/3Aflboe</a> 978-982-04-0674-2 (print) 978-982-04-0675-9 (ecopy)	99 p.	State of the Environment Report 2019: Solomon Islands	<a href="https://bit.ly/3qlwAOu">https://bit.ly/3qlwAOu</a> 978-982-04-0834-0 (print) 978-982-04-0833-3 (ecopy)	156 p.
Cook Islands – State of Environment Report 2018	<a href="https://bit.ly/3xZU2Uo">https://bit.ly/3xZU2Uo</a> 978-982-04-0666-7 (print) 978-982-04-0667-4 (ecopy)	200 p.	Stocktake of existing and pipeline waste legislation – Cook Islands	<a href="https://bit.ly/2U8a0Iz">https://bit.ly/2U8a0Iz</a> 978-982-04-0795-4 (ecopy)	15 p.
Cook Islands turtle project – nesting suitability survey Rarotonga, Cook Islands	<a href="https://bit.ly/2UJzp0h">https://bit.ly/2UJzp0h</a> 978-982-04-0676-6 (print) 978-982-04-0677-3 (ecopy)	27 p.	Stocktake of existing and pipeline waste and legislation – Fiji	<a href="https://bit.ly/3h15yb6">https://bit.ly/3h15yb6</a> 978-982-04-0794-7 (ecopy)	14 p.
Developing monitoring and evaluation plans: A guide for project design	<a href="https://bit.ly/2UKF1HC">https://bit.ly/2UKF1HC</a> 978-982-04-0811-1 (ecopy)	22 p.	Stocktake of existing and pipeline waste legislation – Niue	<a href="https://bit.ly/3A1BVyT">https://bit.ly/3A1BVyT</a> 978-982-04-0797-8 (ecopy)	13 p.
Developing a project logic: a guide for project design	<a href="https://bit.ly/3dk5ZfC">https://bit.ly/3dk5ZfC</a> 978-982-04-0812-8 (ecopy)	14 p.	Stocktake of existing and pipeline waste legislation – Nauru	<a href="https://bit.ly/3jaulyzo">https://bit.ly/3jaulyzo</a> 978-982-04-0799-2 (ecopy)	12 p.
Directory of Wetlands – Republic of Nauru	<a href="https://bit.ly/3gZEXWH">https://bit.ly/3gZEXWH</a> 978-982-04-0680-3 (print) 978-982-04-0681-0 (ecopy)	43 p.	Stocktake of existing and pipeline waste legislation – Palau	<a href="https://bit.ly/3wZZkiu">https://bit.ly/3wZZkiu</a> 978-982-04-0798-5 (ecopy)	15 p.
Ecosystem-based adaptation options assessment – Macuata province, Fiji	<a href="https://bit.ly/3x4Ftl">https://bit.ly/3x4Ftl</a> 978-982-04-0775-6 (print) 978-982-04-0776-3 (ecopy)	34 p.	Stocktake of existing and pipeline waste legislation – Papua New Guinea	<a href="https://bit.ly/3vXy6ry">https://bit.ly/3vXy6ry</a> 978-982-04-0803-6 (ecopy)	38 p.
Ecosystem and socio-economic resilience analysis and mapping – Macuata province, Fiji	<a href="https://bit.ly/3y3Nrbv">https://bit.ly/3y3Nrbv</a> 978-982-04-0777-0 (print) 978-982-04-0778-7 (ecopy)	64 p.	Stocktake of existing and pipeline waste legislation – Republic of Marshall Islands	<a href="https://bit.ly/3jl34qD">https://bit.ly/3jl34qD</a> 978-982-04-0796-1 (ecopy)	15 p.
Ecosystem-based adaptation options assessment and masterplan – Taveuni, Fiji	<a href="https://bit.ly/3qvA0yl">https://bit.ly/3qvA0yl</a> 978-982-04-0779-4 (print) 978-982-04-0780-0 (ecopy)	88 p.	Stocktake of existing and pipeline waste legislation – Samoa	<a href="https://bit.ly/2Tg1mwi">https://bit.ly/2Tg1mwi</a> 978-982-04-0804-3 (ecopy)	14 p.
Federated States of Micronesia National Environment Management Strategy 2019–2023	<a href="https://bit.ly/3w08CtE">https://bit.ly/3w08CtE</a> 978-982-04-0836-4 (print) 978-982-04-0835-7 (ecopy)	36 p.	Stocktake of existing and pipeline waste legislation – Solomon Islands	<a href="https://bit.ly/3dg3Lhe">https://bit.ly/3dg3Lhe</a> 978-982-04-0804-3 (ecopy)	13 p.
Field surveys to complete the permanent vegetation plots on 'Eua National Park: Kingdom of Tonga July 2013	<a href="https://bit.ly/3wajXHH">https://bit.ly/3wajXHH</a> 978-982-04-0688-9 (print) 978-982-04-0689-6 (ecopy)	38 p.	Stocktake of existing and pipeline waste legislation – Timor-Leste	<a href="https://bit.ly/3x3q5m5">https://bit.ly/3x3q5m5</a> 978-982-04-0807-4 (ecopy)	15 p.
Global and Regional framework – Chemicals and Waste Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)	<a href="https://bit.ly/3y33fuZ">https://bit.ly/3y33fuZ</a> 978-982-04-0830-2 (ecopy)	24 p.	Stocktake of existing and pipeline waste legislation – Tonga	<a href="https://bit.ly/3vUvEC4">https://bit.ly/3vUvEC4</a> 978-982-04-0805-0 (ecopy)	13 p.
In the eye of the storm – reflections from the second Pacific Climate Change Conference	<a href="https://bit.ly/3jgAfvL">https://bit.ly/3jgAfvL</a> 978-0-473-55001-1 (ecopy)	234 p.	Stocktake of existing and pipeline waste legislation – Tuvalu	<a href="https://bit.ly/3h15yb6">https://bit.ly/3h15yb6</a> 978-982-04-0801-2 (ecopy)	15 p.
Management plan for the Ijuw/Anabar Wetlands proposed conservation Area – Republic of Nauru	<a href="https://bit.ly/3gZEhgL">https://bit.ly/3gZEhgL</a> 978-982-04-0682-7 (print) 978-982-04-0683-4 (ecopy)	13 p.	Stocktake of existing and pipeline waste legislation – Vanuatu	<a href="https://bit.ly/3dfZREZ">https://bit.ly/3dfZREZ</a> 978-982-04-0800-5 (ecopy)	13 p.
Managing low-incidence priority weeds to conserve Pacific biodiversity	<a href="https://bit.ly/3gZhSK7">https://bit.ly/3gZhSK7</a> 978-982-04-0816-6 (print) 978-982-04-0815-9 (ecopy)	25 p.	Tropical Cyclone Harold Recovery Works in Vanuatu: outcome report	<a href="https://bit.ly/2U2nj1U">https://bit.ly/2U2nj1U</a> 978-982-04-0914-9 (ecopy)	50 p.
Marine ecosystem health monitoring program: Kingdom of Tonga, 2016.	<a href="https://bit.ly/3hfwGe">https://bit.ly/3hfwGe</a> 978-982-04-0690-2 (print) 978-982-04-0691-9 (ecopy)	24 p.	Tuvalu Department of Environment: National Environment Management Strategy 2015–2020	<a href="https://bit.ly/3zyBG81">https://bit.ly/3zyBG81</a>	26 p.
			Use natural enemies to manage widespread weeds in the Pacific	<a href="https://bit.ly/35VFLMI">https://bit.ly/35VFLMI</a> 978-982-04-0824-1 (print) 978-982-04-0823-4 (ecopy)	24 p.
			Vemöore Declaration: commitments to nature conservation action in the Pacific Islands region, 2021–2025	<a href="https://bit.ly/3xWyKqA">https://bit.ly/3xWyKqA</a>	5 p.
			Vemöore Declaration: commitments to nature conservation action in the Pacific Islands region, 2021–2025 (French version)	<a href="https://bit.ly/2U83dDi">https://bit.ly/2U83dDi</a>	6 p.
			Waste audit methodology: a common approach	<a href="https://bit.ly/3y0IYHG">https://bit.ly/3y0IYHG</a> 978-982-04-0846-3 (ecopy)	57 p.



TITLE SERIES	ISBN / ISSN / LINK	PAGES
The Connection: (Issues 2, 3, 4)	<a href="https://bit.ly/35N5y9s">https://bit.ly/35N5y9s</a> <a href="https://bit.ly/35Qnxf">https://bit.ly/35Qnxf</a> <a href="https://bit.ly/3xLsim7">https://bit.ly/3xLsim7</a> 2413-5534	21 p. 30 p. 30 p.
Climate Change Matters: April-August, 65, 66, 67	<a href="https://bit.ly/2SwbHUx">https://bit.ly/2SwbHUx</a> <a href="https://bit.ly/3gXGHHW">https://bit.ly/3gXGHHW</a> <a href="https://bit.ly/3xQC4Ua">https://bit.ly/3xQC4Ua</a> 2227-694	6 p.
COSSPac Monthly Climate Bulletin: June, July, August, September, October, December	<a href="https://bit.ly/3h4MWqN">https://bit.ly/3h4MWqN</a> <a href="https://bit.ly/3qsYTLb">https://bit.ly/3qsYTLb</a> <a href="https://bit.ly/3hfxY1d">https://bit.ly/3hfxY1d</a> <a href="https://bit.ly/2TfuYd3">https://bit.ly/2TfuYd3</a> <a href="https://bit.ly/3A7Dcob">https://bit.ly/3A7Dcob</a> <a href="https://bit.ly/3xXIW33">https://bit.ly/3xXIW33</a> 2617-3557	6 p.
Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) newsletter; Issues 9, 10	<a href="https://bit.ly/2SnUnRo">https://bit.ly/2SnUnRo</a> <a href="https://bit.ly/3jctHhG">https://bit.ly/3jctHhG</a> 2617-5506	8 p.
PACRES newsletter, Vols. 1, 2	<a href="https://bit.ly/3dhGplg">https://bit.ly/3dhGplg</a> <a href="https://bit.ly/3heLbHo">https://bit.ly/3heLbHo</a> 2519-5506	8 p.
Rapport Annuel du PROE 2019	<a href="https://bit.ly/3gKxDB">https://bit.ly/3gKxDB</a> 1562-675X	56 p.
SPREP Annual Report 2019	<a href="https://bit.ly/2T3GiJv">https://bit.ly/2T3GiJv</a> 1562-675X	56 p.
SPREP Tok (Issues: 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70)	<a href="https://bit.ly/3dnrUCL">https://bit.ly/3dnrUCL</a> <a href="https://bit.ly/3djL8sT">https://bit.ly/3djL8sT</a> <a href="https://bit.ly/3h4ENna">https://bit.ly/3h4ENna</a> <a href="https://bit.ly/2UCLu7h">https://bit.ly/2UCLu7h</a> <a href="https://bit.ly/2UCKujx">https://bit.ly/2UCKujx</a> <a href="https://bit.ly/3y1UYHJ">https://bit.ly/3y1UYHJ</a> <a href="https://bit.ly/3qzFKAF">https://bit.ly/3qzFKAF</a> <a href="https://bit.ly/3dmyF7y">https://bit.ly/3dmyF7y</a> <a href="https://bit.ly/2SCE7fE">https://bit.ly/2SCE7fE</a> <a href="https://bit.ly/3w0njN7">https://bit.ly/3w0njN7</a> 2311-861X	4 p.
<b>MEETING REPORTS</b>		
Report of the Second SPREP Executive Board Meeting 2-4 September 2020	<a href="https://bit.ly/2Sv0Aeq">https://bit.ly/2Sv0Aeq</a> 978-982-04-0895-1 (ecopy) 978-982-04-0896-8 (print)	29 p.
Second Executive Board Meeting 2-4 September 2020 – Approved recommendations	<a href="https://bit.ly/3xWtao8">https://bit.ly/3xWtao8</a>	9 p.
<b>FACT SHEETS</b>		
A guide to developing SMART objectives	<a href="https://bit.ly/3qsoHXQ">https://bit.ly/3qsoHXQ</a> 978-982-04-0828-9 (ecopy)	4 p.
Advanced recovery fee & deposit systems	<a href="https://bit.ly/2Sz27JL">https://bit.ly/2Sz27JL</a> 978-982-04-0827-2 (ecopy)	4 p.
By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management Initiatives – marine spatial planning and marine protected areas designation	<a href="https://bit.ly/3wapX3b">https://bit.ly/3wapX3b</a>	2 p.
By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management (BIEM) initiative – Overview	<a href="https://bit.ly/3xWujMo">https://bit.ly/3xWujMo</a>	2 p.
By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management Initiative: Reducing By-catch and Improving Species Conservation	<a href="https://bit.ly/3gXV8Kn">https://bit.ly/3gXV8Kn</a>	2 p.
By-catch and Integrated ecosystem management Initiative – Integrated ridge to reef ecosystem management	<a href="https://bit.ly/3qHhZqN">https://bit.ly/3qHhZqN</a>	2 p.
How to manage COVID-19 healthcare waste	<a href="https://bit.ly/3w1m0gM">https://bit.ly/3w1m0gM</a>	4 p.
How to properly dispose of used oils?	<a href="https://bit.ly/3zZQgMt">https://bit.ly/3zZQgMt</a>	2 p.
In-country National Education and Awareness Plans (NEAPS)	<a href="https://bit.ly/3hbet9V">https://bit.ly/3hbet9V</a> 978-982-04-0829-6 (ecopy)	4 p.
National disaster waste management plans: benefits of having disaster waste management plans and planning to Pacific islands	<a href="https://bit.ly/3gWBr5l">https://bit.ly/3gWBr5l</a>	4 p.
What you can do to help address this issue in our Pacific	<a href="https://bit.ly/3w20fxn">https://bit.ly/3w20fxn</a>	2 p.
Why are used oils dangerous?	<a href="https://bit.ly/3zZuTL4">https://bit.ly/3zZuTL4</a>	2 p.

TITLE BROCHURES	ISBN / ISSN / LINK	PAGES
Before you leave Tonga, Stop and think... Could you be breaking wildlife laws? (English version)	<a href="https://bit.ly/2UllTd7">https://bit.ly/2UllTd7</a>	2 p.
Before you leave Samoa, Stop and Think... Could you be breaking wildlife laws? – (Chinese version)	<a href="https://bit.ly/3dcP6U6">https://bit.ly/3dcP6U6</a>	2 p.
Ae e te le'i tu'ua Samoa, taofi ma se'i toe mafaufau: fa'amata e te le o solia tulafono mo meaola o le natura? (Samoan version)	<a href="https://bit.ly/3duV8Qf">https://bit.ly/3duV8Qf</a>	2 p.
<b>POSTERS/BOOKLETS/BANNERS</b>		
Before you leave Tonga, Stop and think... Could you be breaking wildlife laws? (Tongan version – banner)	<a href="https://bit.ly/2U1zQCH">https://bit.ly/2U1zQCH</a>	1 p.
Before you leave Tonga, Stop and think... Could you be breaking wildlife laws? (Chinese version – banner)	<a href="https://bit.ly/3gUS0yR">https://bit.ly/3gUS0yR</a>	1 p.
Before you leave Tonga, Stop and think... Could you be breaking wildlife laws? (English version – banner)	<a href="https://bit.ly/3xQRE27">https://bit.ly/3xQRE27</a>	1 p.
Environment planning tool for sustainable tourism in the Pacific (poster)	<a href="https://bit.ly/3gVUU6B">https://bit.ly/3gVUU6B</a>	1 p.
Samoa's sharks sanctuary (poster)	<a href="https://bit.ly/3h29uZh">https://bit.ly/3h29uZh</a>	1 p.
<b>VIDEOS</b>		<b>H:M:S</b>
Allen Coral Atlas: a New Tool for Coral Reef Management	<a href="https://youtu.be/MIvzbWHIEMI">https://youtu.be/MIvzbWHIEMI</a>	1:01:59
Environmental Consideration in Sustainable Tourism in the Pacific Island Region	<a href="https://youtu.be/2skr05TdQMc">https://youtu.be/2skr05TdQMc</a>	1:51:21
GEF-PAS Integrated Island Biodiversity Project (GEFPAS IIB)	<a href="https://youtu.be/pASYPI7IhT4">https://youtu.be/pASYPI7IhT4</a>	0:11:13
National Education and Awareness Plan Capacity Development Workshop – Message from EU	<a href="https://youtu.be/9D9_gyOJ92s">https://youtu.be/9D9_gyOJ92s</a>	0:4:48
Open Street Map Data Pacific	<a href="https://youtu.be/hLIYQ0MX_bl">https://youtu.be/hLIYQ0MX_bl</a>	0:16:26
Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme – action plans for migratory marine species	<a href="https://youtu.be/oS8_6fsgWck">https://youtu.be/oS8_6fsgWck</a>	0:1:58
PacWastePlus Steering Committee Meeting – Video message from EU	<a href="https://youtu.be/jzvKypK9V4">https://youtu.be/jzvKypK9V4</a>	0:3:11
Participatory 3-Dimensional Modelling (P3DM) in the Pacific Islands	<a href="https://youtu.be/lcXzuD3758l">https://youtu.be/lcXzuD3758l</a>	0:0:10
PIPAP GIS Supplementary Training Video 1: QGIS Basics	<a href="https://youtu.be/1bQcMUrTy0Y">https://youtu.be/1bQcMUrTy0Y</a>	0:0:22
PIPAP GIS Supplementary Training Video 2: Building Maps in QGIS	<a href="https://youtu.be/CYZ7zu89dtE">https://youtu.be/CYZ7zu89dtE</a>	0:0:22
SPREP Director General, Kosi Latu Statement for the signing of the MOU between SPREP and Rev Ocean	<a href="https://youtu.be/QzklXQy9AQY">https://youtu.be/QzklXQy9AQY</a>	0:6:10
SPREP Director General, Kosi Latu Speech for the Placencia Ambition Forum	<a href="https://youtu.be/Pyhq0P2GLio">https://youtu.be/Pyhq0P2GLio</a>	0:4:30
The Pacific adventures of the climate crab (Tokelauan)	<a href="https://youtu.be/G6BauHfjQbs">https://youtu.be/G6BauHfjQbs</a>	0:4:13
<b>WEBINARS</b>		
Double Jeopardy: COVID-19 brings heat to climate change urgency	<a href="https://youtu.be/Ls257hcULn8">https://youtu.be/Ls257hcULn8</a>	1:35:39
Healthy environment = Healthy humans	<a href="https://youtu.be/qOpwuE_50lg">https://youtu.be/qOpwuE_50lg</a>	1:38:29
Our Ocean Journey for a Bluer Pacific as we navigate through COVID-19	<a href="https://youtu.be/gPA9a-9G13E">https://youtu.be/gPA9a-9G13E</a>	0:0:80
Tackling the challenge of maintaining a cleaner Pacific amidst a pandemic and disaster situation	<a href="https://bit.ly/3h1cw0W">https://bit.ly/3h1cw0W</a>	2:13:29

# Staff List AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

STAFF MEMBER	DESIGNATION	COUNTRY	CONTRACT EXPIRY DATE
<b>SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM</b>			
1 Kosi Latu	Director General	Samoa	31-Dec-21
2 Roger Cornforth	Deputy Director General, Governance and Operations	New Zealand	31-Jan-21
3 Stuart Chape	Acting Deputy Director General, Technical Programmes/ Director Island and Ocean Ecosystems	Australia	30-Jun-21
4 Tagaloa Cooper – Halo	Director Climate Change Resilience	Niue	04-Feb-21
5 Easter Chu Shing	Director Environmental Monitoring and Governance	Samoa	30-Jun-23
6 Anthony Talouli	Acting Director Waste Management and Pollution Control/ Pollution Adviser	Fiji	31-Mar-21
7 Clark Peteru	Legal Counsel	Samoa	31-Mar-21
8 Petra Chan Tung	Director Finance and Administration	Samoa	31-Dec-21
9 Simeamativa Vaai	Director Human Resources	Samoa	31-Dec-21
<b>EXECUTIVE SUPPORT AND REGIONAL OFFICES</b>			
<i>Executive Support</i>			
1 Audrey Brown-Pereira	Executive Officer	Cook Islands	31-Oct-23
2 Rosanna Galuvao-Ah Ching	Executive Assistant to the Director General	Samoa	30-May-22
3 Apiseta Eti	Executive Assistant to the Deputy Director General	Samoa	31-Dec-21
<i>Internal Audit</i>			
1 Niraj Kumar	Internal Auditor	Fiji	30-Jul-22
<i>Subregional Offices</i>			
1 Kilom Ishiguro	Technical and Liaison Officer – North Pacific Office	RMI	31-Dec-22
<b>TECHNICAL PROGRAMMES</b>			
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE</b>			
1 Foinijancey Fesolai	Climate Change Resilience Programme Assistant	Samoa	1-Oct-23
2 Espen Ronneberg	Climate Change Adviser	Norway	31-Mar-21
3 Filomena Nelson	Climate Change Adaptation Adviser	Samoa	8-Oct-23
4 Ofa Kaisamy	Manager Pacific Climate Change Centre	Tonga	04-Oct-23
5 Salesa Nihmei	Meteorology and Climatology Adviser	Vanuatu	31-Mar-22
6 Sunny Seuseu	Acting Project Manager/ Climate Information Services Officer, Vanuatu CISRD Project	Samoa	04-Apr-21
7 Connie Sewere	Technical and Finance Assistant, Vanuatu CISRD Project	Vanuatu	31-Mar-22
8 Azarel Mariner	COSPPac Capacity Development Officer	Samoa	30-Jun-21
9 Siosinamele Lui	COSPPac Climate Traditional Knowledge Officer	Samoa	30-Jun-21
10 Philip Malsale	COSSPac Climatology Officer	Vanuatu	30-Jun-21
11 Teuila-Jane Fruean	COSSPac Technical and Finance Assistant	Samoa	30-Jun-21
12 Patrick Pringle	Climate Analytic Consultant (On Secondment from Cimate Analytics)	UK	31-Jan-22
13 Ella Strachan	Climate Analytics Junior Research Associate (On Secondment from Climate Analytics)	Australia	30-Jun-21
14 Tile Tofaeono	Climate Prediction Services Coordinator	Samoa	28-Aug-22
15 Robert D. McIntosh	Oceanography Officer	USA	13-May-21
16 Raymond Schuster	PPOA Project Technical Assistant	Samoa	30-Jun-21
17 Martin Sharp	Project Manager – GCCA+ Intra ACP Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience	Australia	07-Jan-22
18 Semi Qamese	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	Fiji	15-Mar-22
19 Laura Mitchell	PACRES Finance and Administration Officer	Samoa	24-Apr-22
20 Emma Arasi-Sua	PACRES Information and Knowledge Management Officer	Samoa	31-Jul-21
21 Sione Fulivai	Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) Coordinator	Tonga	30-Jun-22
22 Fred Patison	Climate Change Finance Readiness Adviser	Solomon Islands	20-Sep-23
23 Vanda Faasoa-Chan Ting	Technical Adviser – Pacific Nationally Determined Contributions Hub	Samoa	18-Oct-21
24 Florette Tuauu-Tiperia	Finance and Administration Officer – Pacific Nationally Determined Contributions Hub	Samoa	14-Oct-21
25 Monifa Fiu	Impacts Analysis Adviser	Fiji	15-Mar-23
26 Dannicah Chan	GCCA+ Scaled Up Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (SUPA) Project, Finance and Administration Officer	Samoa	03-May-23
27 Gloria Roma	GCCA+ Scaled Up Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (SUPA) Project, Information and Research Officer	Samoa	12-Jul-23
28 Carmen Fepulea'i	Finance and Administration Support Assistant – Pacific Climate Change Centre	Samoa	31-Jan-21
29 Kayla Economou	Pacific MetDesk Partnership Intern (under Joint CROP SIS Attachment Programme)	Samoa	31-Aug-21
30 Masako Ogawa	Chief Advisor, Project for Capacity Building on Climate Resilience in the Pacific JICA	Japan	17-Jul-21
31 Yuji Ueno	Project Coordinator, Project for Capacity Building on Climate Resilience in the Pacific JICA	Japan	31-Dec-22
32 Christine Tuioti	Project Assistant, Project for Capacity Building on Climate Resilience in the Pacific JICA	Samoa	31-Mar-22
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND GOVERNANCE</b>			
1 Faasipa Tinai	Environmental Monitoring and Governance Programme Assistant	Samoa	25-Aug-22
2 Jope Davetanivalu	Environmental Planning Adviser	Fiji	30-Sep-22
3 Gregory Barbara	Environmental Assessment and Planning Officer	Australia	14-Apr-21
4 Paul Anderson	Inform Project Manager	USA	31-Dec-21
5 Peter McDonald	Inform Project, Environmental Monitoring and Reporting Specialist	Australia	08-Jun-21
6 Tavita Su'a	Environmental Information System Developer and Analyst	Samoa	14-Oct-21
7 Lagi Reupena	Inform Project, Environmental Data Officer	Samoa	31-Jul-21
8 Sabrina Reupena	Inform Project, Finance and Administration Officer	Samoa	29-Jul-21
9 Meapelo Mai'ai	World Bank, Environmental and Social Safeguards Consultant	Samoa	Jun-22
<b>ISLAND AND OCEAN ECOSYSTEMS</b>			
1 Makerita Atiga	Island and Ocean Ecosystems Programme Assistant	Samoa	02-Aug-23
2 David Moverley	Invasive Species Adviser	New Zealand	30-Nov-21
3 Peter Davies	Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Adviser	Australia	26-Apr-22
4 Karen Baird	Threatened and Migratory Species Adviser	New Zealand	26-Apr-22
5 Unity Roebeck	Turtle Database and Conservation Officer	Samoa	01-Jun-22
6 Amanda Wheatley	Biodiversity Adviser	Australia	16-Dec-23
7 Juney Ward	Biodiversity Officer	Samoa	30-Jun-22



STAFF MEMBER	DESIGNATION	COUNTRY	CONTRACT EXPIRY DATE
8 Vainuupo Jungblut	Protected Areas Officer	Samoa	31-May-23
9 Rahul Chand	ABS – Capacity Building Officer	Fiji	31-Dec-21
10 James Faiumu	ABS – Technical and Finance Officer	Samoa	31-Dec-21
11 Isabel Rasch	GEF 6 Regional Invasive Species Coordinator	Samoa	06-Jan-23
12 Jamie Davies	Project Manager – By-Catch and Intergrated Ecosystem Management (BIEM) Project	UK	03-May-22
13 Rohit Prasad	BIEM, Finance and Administration Officer	Fiji	25-Aug-22
14 Bradley Myer	Project Manager – Regional Invasive Species Project	New Zealand	01-Jun-22
15 Josef Pisi	Invasive Species PRIMSS Associate	Samoa	17-Jun-22
16 Kennedy Kaneko	National Invasive Species Coordinator – RMI	RMI	04-Nov-22
17 Dominic Sadler	Invasive Species Coordinator	Switzerland	31-Jan-22
18 Hannah Hendriks	Migratory Marine Species Conservation Officer (On Secondment from Department of Conservation, NZ)	New Zealand	07-Jun-21
<b>WASTE MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL</b>			
1 Davina Bartley-Tiitii	Waste Management and Pollution Control, Programme Assistant	Samoa	25-Mar-22
2 Ma Bella Guinto	Solid Waste Management Adviser	New Zealand	31-Mar-21
3 Atioafaliga Tau	Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific, Project Support Officer	Samoa	16-Aug-23
4 Joshua Sam	Hazardous Waste Management Adviser	PNG	15-Jul-22
5 Ngairé Ah Ching	Project Coordinator – Pacific National Implementation Plans and Minamata Initial Assessment	Samoa	21-Mar-21
6 Bradley Nolan	Project Manager PacWastePlus	Australia	08-Nov-21
7 Sela Simamao	PacWaste Plus, Finance and Procurement Officer	Tonga	30-Jun-22
8 Crystal Schwenke	PacWaste Plus, Technical and Administration Officer	Samoa	14-Apr-22
9 Lance Richman	PacWaste Plus, Technical Waste Project Officer – Hazardous Waste	USA	28-Nov-22
10 Sainimili Bulai	PacWaste Plus, Technical Waste Project Officer – Solid Waste	Fiji	02-Nov-22
11 Hilary Boyes	PacWaste Plus, Technical Waste Project Officer – Resource Recovery	New Zealand	13-Jan-23
12 Nitish Narayan	PacWaste Plus, Communications Officer	Fiji	03-Aug-22
13 Vira Atalifo	PacWaste Plus, Regional Project Officer (Fiji)	Fiji	06-Oct-22
14 Michael Taiki	PacWaste Plus, Regional Project Officer (Vanuatu)	Vanuatu	22-Jan-23
15 Sascha Fuller	Pacific Node Coordinator (On Placement from University of Newcastle, Australia)	Australia	30-Apr-22
<b>GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS</b>			
<i>Strategic Planning</i>			
1 Rebecca Polestico	Monitoring and Evaluation Adviser	Philippines	01-Mar-21
<i>Project Coordination Unit</i>			
1 Melanie King	Manager, Project Coordination Unit	Australia	22-Oct-21
2 Rupeni Mario	Project Development Specialist – Climate Change Mitigation	Fiji	17-Jul-21
3 Vitolina Samu	Project Implementation Support Officer	Samoa	18-Apr-21
4 Nelida Taebo	Project Coordination Unit Intern (under Joint CROP SIS Attachment Programme)	Kiribati	08-Mar-21
<i>Information Technology</i>			
1 Christian Slaven	IT Manager	Samoa	30-Nov-21
2 Epeli Tagi	IT Network and Systems Support Engineer	Fiji	30-Apr-23
3 Billy Chan Ting	Web Applications Developer Specialist	Samoa	30-Apr-23
4 Ainsof So'o	Systems Developer and Analyst	Samoa	31-Oct-22
5 Charlie Reed	IT Support Officer	Samoa	03-Feb-22
<i>Knowledge Management</i>			
1 Miraneta Williams-Hazelman	Knowledge Manager	Samoa	31-Oct-21
2 Lupe Silulu	Records and Archives Officer	Samoa	31-Dec-21
3 Aleluia Seiluli-Vaega	Records and Archives Assistant	Samoa	08-Mar-23
4 Ane Ah Poe	Knowledge Management Officer	Samoa	31-Dec-20
<i>Communications and Outreach</i>			
1 Nanette Woonton	Acting Communications and Outreach Adviser/ Media and Public Relations Officer	Cook Islands	31-Oct-23
2 Leanne Moananu	Communications Support Officer	Samoa	31-Dec-22
3 Angelica Salele-Sefo	Outreach Support Officer	Samoa	08-Apr-21
<b>FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION</b>			
1 Veronica Levi	Financial Accountant	Samoa	10-Apr-22
2 Maraea Slade-Pogi	Procurement Officer	Samoa	05-Jan-23
3 Siniva Tuuau-Enosa	Project Accountant	Samoa	26-Jun-22
4 Alvin Sen	Project Accountant	Fiji	16-Jun-22
5 Rachel Levi	Accountant	Samoa	29-Apr-21
6 Naoafioga Feu'u	Finance Officer	Samoa	10-Sep-23
7 Hetta Fuimaono	Finance Officer	Samoa	19-Jun-22
8 Emmaflora Ah Tong	Finance Officer	Samoa	30-Sep-22
9 Pata Mase	Finance Officer – Projects	Samoa	15-Sep-22
10 Lawrence Warner	Property Services Officer	Samoa	4-Dec-21
11 Faamanatu Siliti	Driver/ Clerk	Samoa	05-Dec-23
12 Iosefa Tootoo	Cleaner/ Teaperson	Samoa	21-Jul-22
13 Cynthia Ah Loo	Cleaner/ Teaperson	Samoa	31-Dec-23
14 Ivoga Sefa	Cleaner/ Teaperson	Samoa	05-Jan-23
15 Tagiilima Enele	Groundsman	Samoa	12-May-23
16 Isaia Talaitau	Groundsman	Samoa	11-Sep-22
<b>HUMAN RESOURCES</b>			
1 Luana Jamieson	Senior Human Resources Officer	Samoa	05-Jan-23
2 Marion Tuipulotu-Chan Chui	Human Resources Officer	Tonga	08-May-23
3 Sepasitiano Paulo	Human Resources Officer	Samoa	24-Nov-22
4 Roger Warren	Human Resources Officer	Samoa	07-Jun-23
5 Monica Tupai	Human Resources Assistant	Samoa	21-May-22

# Acronyms and Abbreviations

<b>ABS</b>	Access and Benefit Sharing	<b>MEAs</b>	Multilateral Environment Agreements
<b>ADB</b>	Asian Development Bank	<b>MEIDECC</b>	Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications.
<b>AFD</b>	Agence Française de Développement	<b>MNRE</b>	Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
<b>APCC</b>	APEC Climate Center	<b>MPA</b>	Marine Protected Area
<b>APEC</b>	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation	<b>NDC</b>	Nationally Determined Contributions
<b>APCP</b>	Australia-Pacific Climate Partnership	<b>NCOC</b>	Niue Chamber of Commerce
<b>APOD</b>	A Pattern of Whales and Dolphins	<b>NEMS</b>	National Environment Management Strategies
<b>BBNJ</b>	Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction	<b>NIP</b>	National Implementation Plan
<b>BIEM</b>	By-catch and Integrated Management Initiative	<b>NIWA</b>	New Zealand National Institution of Water and Atmospheric Research
<b>BIOPAMA</b>	Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management	<b>NMHS</b>	National Meteorological and Hydrological Services
<b>BMU</b>	German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.	<b>NOAA</b>	United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
<b>BoM</b>	Australia Bureau of Meteorology	<b>OACPS</b>	Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States
<b>CBCRP-PCCC</b>	Project for Capacity Building on Climate Resilience in the Pacific through the Pacific Climate Change Centre	<b>One CROP+</b>	The grouping of agencies of the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific, plus others.
<b>CESC</b>	Communications and Engagement Sub-Committee	<b>OSM</b>	OpenStreetMap
<b>CFLI</b>	Canadian Funding for Local Initiatives	<b>PACRES</b>	Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building Project
<b>COP25</b>	Twenty Fifth Conference of the Parties	<b>PacWastePlus</b>	Pacific Waste Management Programme
<b>COP26</b>	Twenty Sixth Conference of the Parties	<b>PALRC</b>	Protected Area Learning Research Collaborative
<b>COVID-19</b>	Coronavirus disease 2019	<b>PCB</b>	Polychlorinated biphenyl
<b>CREWS Pacific</b>	Climate Risk Early Warning System Pacific Small Island Developing States	<b>PCCC</b>	Pacific Climate Change Centre
<b>CROP</b>	Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific	<b>PEBACC</b>	Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change
<b>CSIRO</b>	Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organisation	<b>PEUMP</b>	Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership
<b>DDT</b>	Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane	<b>PICOF</b>	Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum
<b>DFAT</b>	Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	<b>PIFS</b>	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
<b>DEPC</b>	Vanuatu Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation	<b>PIP</b>	Performance Implementation Plan
<b>DPSIR</b>	Drivers, pressures, state, impact and response model of intervention	<b>PIPAP</b>	Pacific Islands Protected Areas Portal
<b>EbA</b>	Ecosystem-based adaptation	<b>PIRT</b>	Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation
<b>EIA</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment	<b>PLP-ESS</b>	Pacific Learning Partnership for Environmental Sustainability
<b>ENSO</b>	El Nino Southern Oscillation	<b>PNG</b>	Papua New Guinea
<b>EU</b>	European Union	<b>POPs</b>	Persistent Organic Pollutants
<b>EU ACPMEA2</b>	European Unions Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environment Agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries Phase II Project	<b>POPCC</b>	Pacific Ocean Pacific Climate Change
<b>FOSS4G</b>	Free and Open-Source Software for Geospatial	<b>POLP</b>	Pacific Ocean Litter Project
<b>FRDP</b>	Framework for Resilience Development in the Pacific (2017–2030): An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management.	<b>PPOA</b>	Pacific Partnership on Ocean Acidification
<b>GCCA+ SUPA</b>	Global Climate Change Alliance+ Scaling-up Pacific Adaptation	<b>PRISMSS</b>	Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Services Programme
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility	<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>GEF6 RIP</b>	Global Environment Facility 6 Regional Invasives Project	<b>SEA</b>	Strategic Environmental Assessment
<b>GFC NDA</b>	Green Climate Fund National Designated Authority	<b>SIDS</b>	Small Island Developing States
<b>GIS</b>	Geographical Information Systems	<b>SILO</b>	Salon international du Livre océanien
<b>GIZ</b>	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	<b>SIMS</b>	Solomon Islands Meteorological Services
<b>GPS</b>	Global Positioning System	<b>SOEC</b>	State of Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report
<b>IAMSLIC</b>	International Association Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers	<b>SotM</b>	State of the Map
<b>IFRC</b>	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	<b>SPC</b>	Pacific Community
<b>IKI</b>	International Climate Initiative	<b>SPREP</b>	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
<b>ILBI</b>	Internationally Legally Binding Instrument	<b>SWAP</b>	Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific
<b>ISLANDS</b>	Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in SIDS	<b>TREDS</b>	Turtle Research and Monitoring Database System
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for the Conservation of Nature	<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>JICA</b>	Japan International Cooperation Agency	<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>MC</b>	Micronesia Challenge	<b>UNFCCC COP25</b>	Twenty-fifth Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
		<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Emergency Fund
		<b>USP</b>	University of the South Pacific
		<b>Van-KIRAP</b>	Vanuatu Klaemet Infomesen blong Redy, Adapt mo Protekt
		<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
		<b>WMO</b>	World Meteorological Organization
		<b>WMPC</b>	Waste Management and Pollution Control
		<b>WWF</b>	World Wide Fund for Nature





Samoa. Photo: D.McFadzien

## Our Region

The Pacific is the world's largest ocean, covering nearly a third of the Earth's surface. About 30,000 islands of varied shapes and sizes lie across its vast expanse.

The Pacific island Members of SPREP are:

- American Samoa
- Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
- Cook Islands
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Fiji
- French Polynesia
- Guam
- Kiribati
- Republic of the Marshall Islands
- Nauru
- New Caledonia
- Niue
- Palau
- Papua New Guinea
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Tokelau
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu
- Wallis and Futuna

SPREP also has five metropolitan Members:

- Australia
- France
- New Zealand
- United Kingdom
- United States of America







# SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional  
Environment Programme